100% gimmick free...100% gimmick free...100% gimmick free...

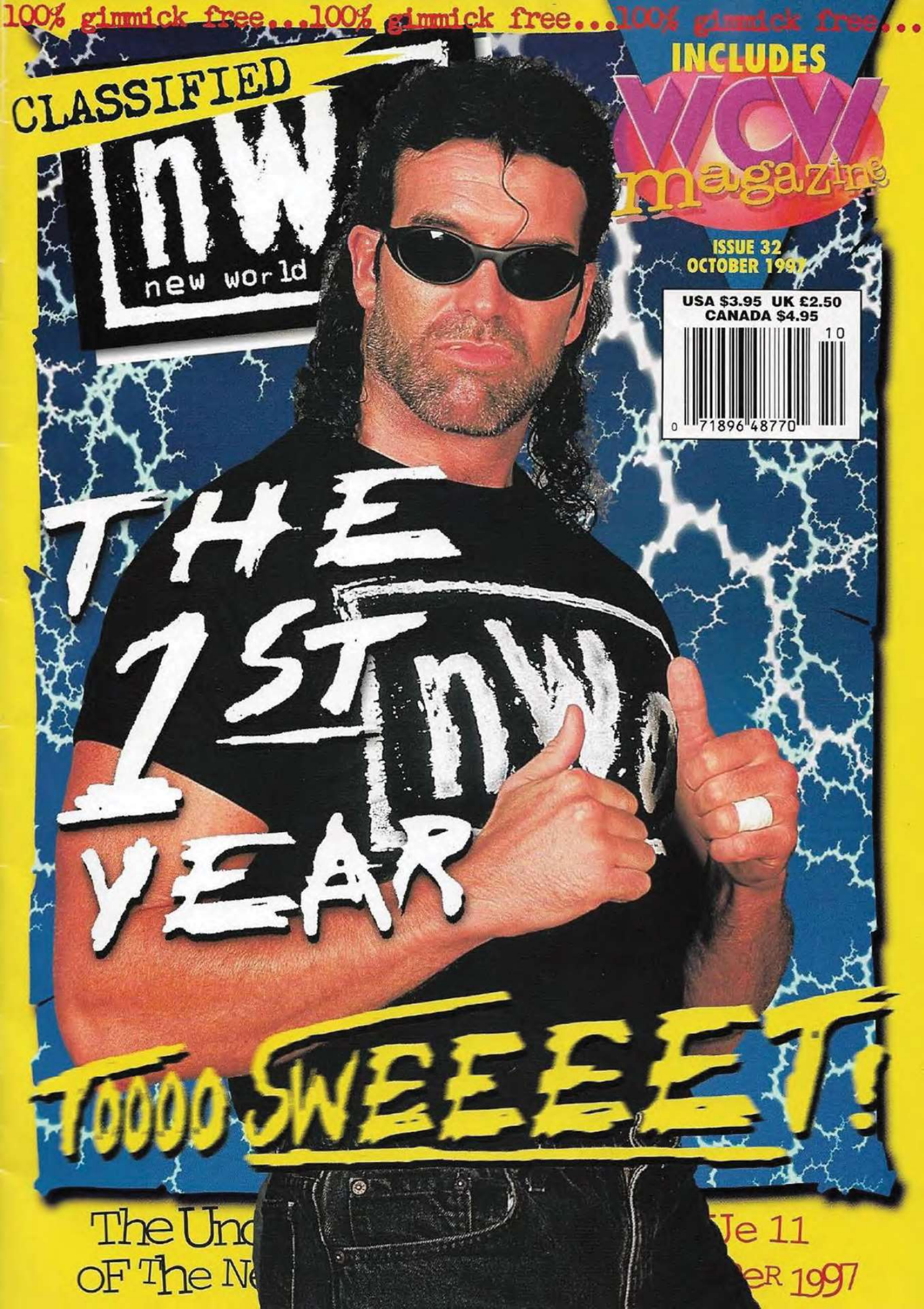
CLASSIFIED nw new world

INCLUDES VCV magazine

ISSUE 32
OCTOBER 1997

USA $3.95 UK £2.50
CANADA $4.95

10
0 71896 48770



THE 1ST nWo YEAR

TOOOO SWEEET!

The Und... ...Je 11
OF The Ne... ...ER 1997

Vicious & Delicious
nWo
new world Order
nWo
4
life

GET YOUR BUTT IN GEAR...

slim jim

HALLOWEEN HAVOC WCW

Oct. 26, 1997

...WITH THE SLIM JIM GEAR CATALOG.

Look for the catalog wherever you buy Slim Jim or call 1-888-4-SLIMJIM. Then slip into Slim Jim T-shirts, hats, boxers and more. Hey, you could even pick up an authentic Macho Man costume. So don't just snap into it! Slip into it! Oh yeah!

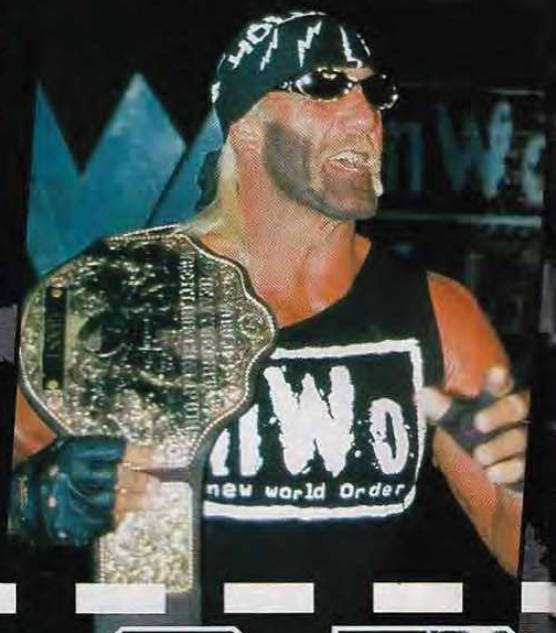
www.slimjim.com

By "The Nomad"

Love him or hate him, you've gotta admit "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan is the best thing going today. "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan is the best there is, the best there was, the best there ever will be.

No matter what others may claim. Let's face facts, folks, everyone wants to be like Hogan. To say he's a mere icon would be an understatement, something unfair, unjust to the legend that he is. Everyone wants to be like Hogan. Everyone dreams of being like Hogan.

Everyone wishes they could fit inside his black, size 12 wrestling boots. Hogan has done more for the sport of professional wrestling, more for the world of sports-entertainment than all others combined.



THE GR

"Hollywood" Hulk Hogan has surpassed icon status; he's reached mythical proportions. Michael Jordan, Wayne Gretzky, Joe Montana, Pele and "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan. Each is well-beyond stardom in his respective sport. Those are the sporting legends who kids five, six and seven years old first dream about at recess. An autograph from any of them would be the ultimate prize, a collector's item cherished more than gold.

At the high school level across America, there are sports stars who will do whatever necessary to reach the next level; that, of course, being the college ranks. If only because that is one step closer to Hogan and his peers. In college, it's the daily battles of books and being a star on the sports fields. And that's no easy task. So few collegians star at, say, the NCAA Division 1 level in any sport. Take, for instance, football. College football annually presents the Heisman Trophy to the sport's best player. Awarded in December, the Heisman is charted weekly by every sports junkie in America — just look at USA TODAY any Monday in the fall for its rankings on who's who among the sport's elite. When the Heisman actually is presented by the Downtown (New York) Athletic Club, there often is one clear favorite. Usually a quarterback or a star running back. The runners-up, also usually a QB or RB, can often be counted on one hand. Throughout the whole two month-plus college football season, there MIGHT be 20 names mentioned as potential Heisman winners. Come early November, though, when the college regular-season is winding down, that list MIGHT number five. Maybe. A quick little history lesson for you now: in 1975, tailback Archie Griffin of Ohio State became the first two-time Heisman winner. By comparison, "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan would have been, hands down, a four-time award-winner.

Maybe football isn't your sport. Perhaps you prefer baseball, the national pastime. Hogan would have been a New York Yankee, naturally. It's only fitting that The Icon play for the most tradition-filled franchise. Hogan in Yankee pinstripes? How fitting. "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan is the Babe Ruth of wrestling. When you think of The Babe, it's great memories of an awe-inspiring athlete ... just like Hogan.

Hank Aaron smacked a record 755 home runs; Hogan probably would be close to 1,000. Nolan Ryan threw a 100 plus MPH fastball; Hogan would be close to 110. Rickey Henderson keeps stealing base after base after base, constantly adding to the sport's all-time record which he holds. Hogan ... well, he actually wouldn't haven't stolen too many. Why is that? Because you need to be on base to steal a bunch. Hogan would be the home run king. The city of Cooperstown, N.Y., home of the Baseball Hall of Fame, would be renamed Hulkerstown.

What about basketball? Could Hogan have been a basketball badboy? Sure, why not ... he has the athletic ability to do anything he would have chosen. Dive like Greg Louganis? No problem. Swim like Mark Spitz? With ease. Drive a golfball as far as Tiger Woods? Probably farther. Race like A.J. Foyt and Mario Andretti? Faster.

"Hollywood" Hulk Hogan is a natural. When Robert Redford got the role of Roy Hobbs, it was only because Hogan was busy filming another movie that day.

"Hollywood" Hulk Hogan also would have iced his competition in hockey. Gordie Howe could have gotten pointers from Hogan; Bobby Hull could have learned a trick or two from Hogan; Ken Dryden never would have stopped an upper-corner slapshot from The Great Hulk.

And then there's boxing. Hogan would have KO'd Rocky Marciano; Joe Louis would have surrendered; Mike Tyson, well, we know he would have bit off WAY more than he could chew it he signed for a one on one with the immortal Hogan. Muhammad Ali would be the only competition that sport could offer to Hogan. And after a Hogan-Ali thriller, Ali would look like vanilla.

I've talked enough about what Hogan could/would have done had he chosen another sport. How about some dirt on the sport —pro wrestling — he defined? Hogan is an eight time World Heavyweight Champion, we all know that. The thing that makes that so impressive is the simple fact he's held the gold for as long as he has. Years upon years, not over Hogan.

Hogan, though, wanted to prove to the world that his bark was as good as his bite, that he was (and still is) the greatest World Heavyweight Champion ever produced. So, Hogan came out of retirement, entered WCW and immediately challenged Ric Flair.

Now we all know who won that one on one encounter, don't we? Seriously, you do remember who won the Hogan-Flair title match at Bash at the Beach 1994, don't you? Need I remind you?

HOGAN.

Flair is nothing but noise in comparison to the immortal Hulkster. Flair would be, at best, a decent caddie for Hogan's Championship belt. Maybe

EATEST

days. (Gee, what was Lex Luger's recent reign? I forget, but, I think it was all of, oh, about 120 hours. You can bet his kids have to be proud of him.) Hogan's title tour started during the first wrestling heyday — which he created, by the way. He defended it constantly against some of the greatest foes to ever step through the ropes.

At the same time, some then-aging (now ancient) loud mouth held the NWA/WCW World Heavyweight Championship. To call that a World title would be like calling Spam a delicacy. Regional champion was more like it. And who was "Nature Boy" Ric Flair's competition? Uh, uh, uh. I can't remember either. Flair won the title 13 times and, sure, that's something to brag about — but just as long as he also remembers that he lost the gold 13 times as well.

And, for the vast majority of Flair's career, his competition was washed up, never-weres, guys who couldn't make it in Hogan's league, let alone earn a title shot at Hogan.

For years the world wanted to see Hogan vs. Flair. That was The Match, the ultimate encounter. I too was eager for that fight. Who was the ultimate champion, the grand master of pro wrestling? Flair eventually left WCW for what was then greener pastures, but avoided any confrontations with the great Hogan. Flair ultimately returned to WCW — with two more title reigns, but without a championship reign just a laundryman for the gold. Since Flair returned to wrestling earlier this year from a serious injury, has "The Nature Boob" made one challenge to Hogan for a title shot? Nope. Has he pleaded with his longtime Four Horsemen pal/current Chairman of the WCW Executive Committee J.J. Dillon for a title shot? Nope.

The reason is simple. He knows he can't compare to Hogan. Never has, never will. Case closed, next subject!

How about "Rowdy" Roddy Piper, the man in the skirt. Did I say that loud enough, THE MAN WEARS A DRESS? OK, just had to be done. Piper is so inferior to Hogan, Billy Kidman deserves a title shot before that peg-legged moron. Piper keeps shooting his mouth off that he could take Hogan in a one on one match if there was no outside interference from The NWO. Well, Piper would only beat Hogan if the Hulkster put a hole in Piper's pantyhose. Enough about him ... next!

Diamond Dallas Page. Wait, in all fairness to Hogan's illustrious career, I cannot mention Diamond Dallas Page in the same sentence with Hulk Hogan and World Heavyweight Championship. Let's move on. (Sorry, "Hollywood.")

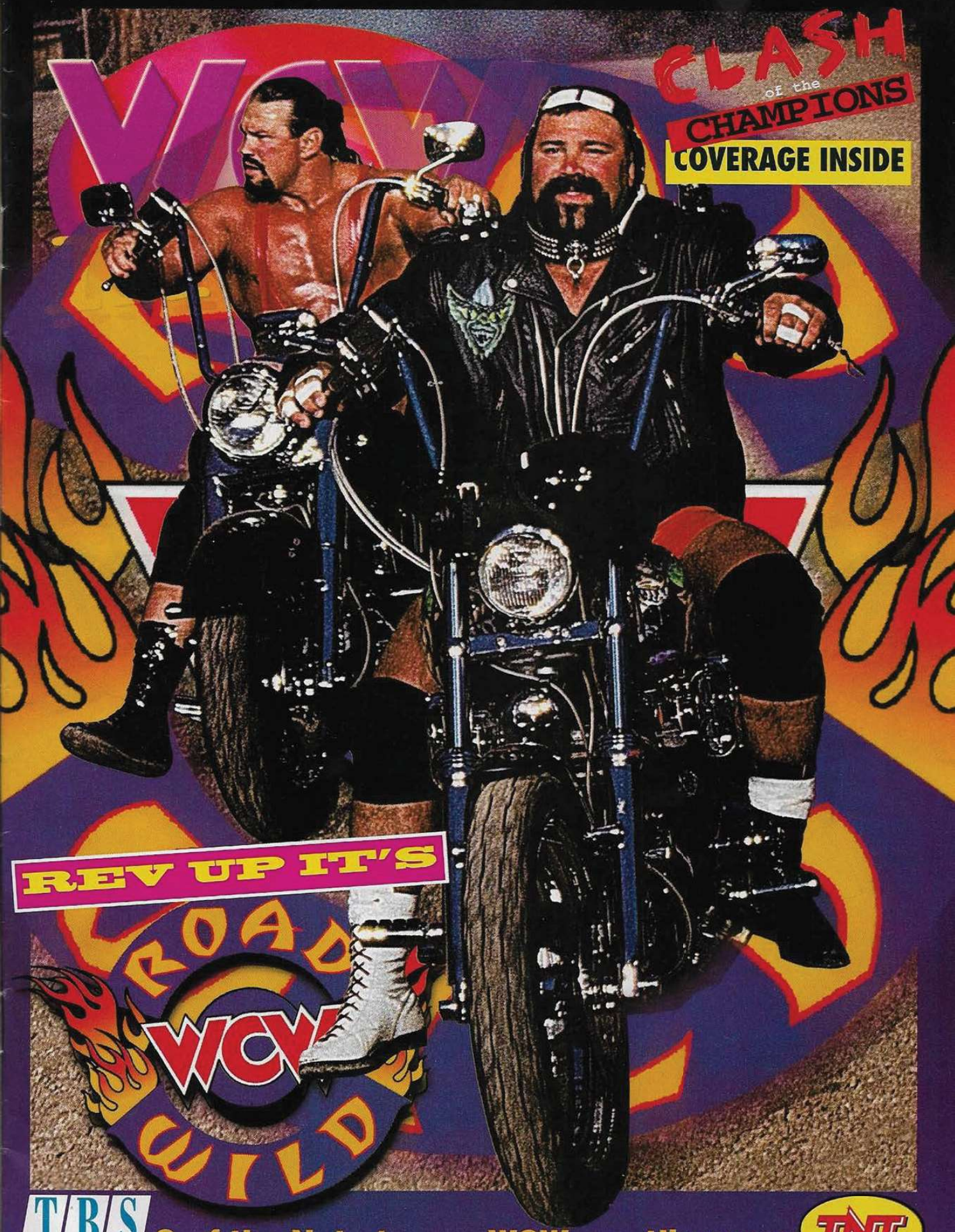
Perhaps Lex Luger. Here's a guy with more brawn than brains, more buff than stuff, more hair than flair. Luger is one dimensional. He's got the Torture Rack, nothing else. And there's no way Luger can rack Hogan again.

Ya know, as I scan a WCW roster, I think that's it for talent. Who else can challenge Hogan? Jim Powers? Sonny Onoo? Too bad Jacquelyn isn't an active wrestler, she's as tough as an talent in the company. WCW is pathetic ... Hogan is the pride and joy of pro wrestling.

Long live The Champ!!

The Official Magazine of World Championship Wrestling

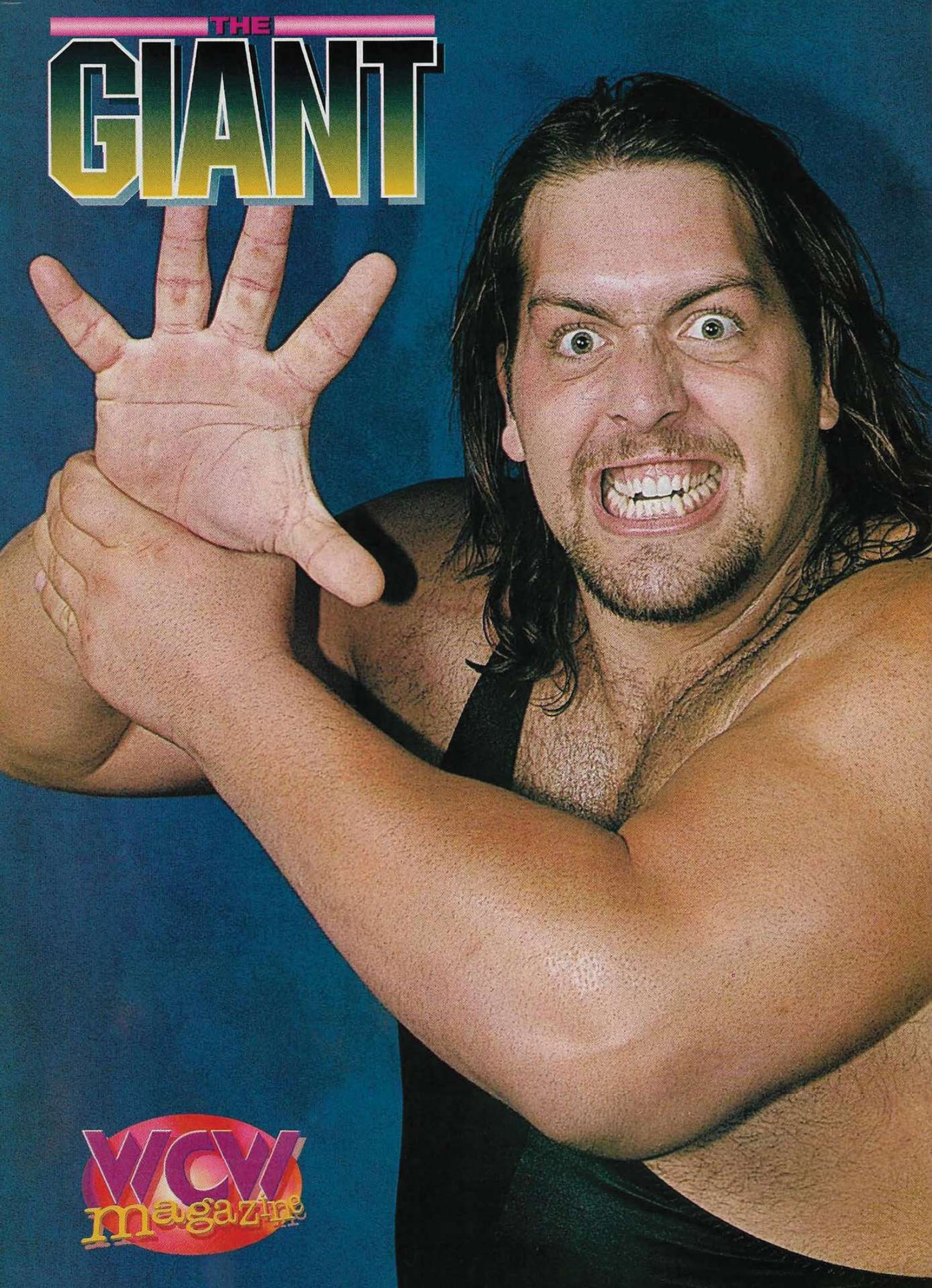
Issue 32 October 1997



TBS SUPERSTATION

Surf the Net at www.WCWwrestling.com

TNT


THE
GIANT
YCW
magazine

WCW Magazine

COLIN BOWMAN
Editor-in-Chief/Publisher
Email:WCWMAG@aol.com

ROSS FORMAN
Executive Editor
Email:ROSSWCW@aol.com

PATTY THERRE
Associate Editor
Email:WCWPATTY@aol.com

FOR
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
DR. HARVEY SCHILLER
President

NICK LAMBROS
Vice President
Business & Administration

LYNN BRENT
USA Magazine Co–ordinator

BOBBY HEENAN,
MIKE TENAY, MARK MADDEN
LEE MARSHALL,
PUBLIC ENEMY,
Contributing Editors

STEVE LAMPON GAVIN MOWER
Executive Art Directors
Email:SCOTSWAHAY@aol.com

ROS SAMUELSON TIM DIGNON
RAY CHARLES
Art Associates

MARTIN COX
Email:WCWCOX@aol.com
Production Manager

DUNCAN WEB OFFSET
Printer

J. STOLL
COLIN BOWMAN
MARK HILL
ANDREW ECCLES
Photography

The entire contents of this publication are copyright ©1997 World Championship Wrestling™. All rights reserved. Hulk Hogan, Hulkamania and Hulkster are trademarks of Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc., licensed to World Championship Wrestling, Inc. All other distinctive names and character likenesses herein are trademarks of World Championship Wrestling, Inc. Nothing in this publication may be reproduced without the express written consent of WCW™ and the Publisher.
WCW™ and the Publisher are not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts. All materials submitted for inclusion in this magazine may be subject to any edits deemed neccesary by the Publisher.
WCW World Championship Wrestling,
(UK ISSN 1357-0137) (USA UPC 71896-48770) (USPS 32110) is published monthly by Howl Ltd.,
21/23 Earl Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1PL
Single copy price is $3.95 USA, $4.95 CANADA, £2.50 UK. Subscription rates for 12 issues are USA $26.00, UK £24.00. Subscriptions should be sent to
USA & CANADA - WCW Magazine, c/o Colin Bowman, One CNN Center, Box 105366, Atlanta, GA30348-5366.
UK & IRELAND - WCW Magazine,
21/23 Earl Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1PL
US, Canadian & worldwide distribution by
KABLE NEWS COMPANY INC.
11 West 42nd St, New York, NY10036.
Royal Mail International, c/o Yellowstone International, 87 Burlews Court, Hackensack, NJ 07601.
'Second Class Postage Paid at South Hackensack'
'POSTMASTER: Send address changes to subscriptions departments in USA or UK.
Printed in the United Kingdom

EDITORS NOTE

Notice anything different about WCW Magazine?

Apart from the fact it has an NWO cover at the moment ... gee, thanks, J.J.

Last month we moved to 60 pages and this month, to provide you with even more value for your money and more information about the world's greatest wrestling organization, we have increased in size to a whopping 68 pages.

In the months to come this will enable us to feature more reader input, so please write to us and let us know what you would like to see featured.

Would you also like to enter a competition and win $500 worth of WCW Merchandise? All you have to do is send me a post card with your name, age, gender and address and whether you subscribe or buy WCW Magazine on the newsstand to:

WCW Magazine Competition,
PO Box 44,
North Syracuse,
NY13212
USA

One lucky entrant's card will be pulled from the sack, they will be contacted and able to choose $500 worth of merchandise from the catalogs.

Entries must be received before November 30th, 1997. No cash substitute will be offered.

Now back to business ...

YO! J.J. WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE!

Come on, it's time to get Sting back in the ring and matched up against Hulk Hogan. However, I think Sting is being just a little bit stubborn about this whole matter. He was presented with the chance to destroy the whole NWO from the tail up and refused.

I would have loved to see Sting, in consecutive weeks on Nitro, defeat and humiliate Syxx, Bagwell, Nash, Hall and Savage as a warm up to the ultimate destruction of Hogan.

So come on Sting ... legend tells us that not all beasts die when their head is chopped off ... you have to destroy the body as well.

I know this is a personal matter for you. Hogan has tried to humiliate you and drive you out of the sport, but the millions of Stingers everywhere don't want you to be all-consumed by a one man vendetta.

They want Sting back. The Sting who cares about them. The Sting who cares about his friends and the Sting who cares about WCW.

It has to be all or nothing!

So, by all means, destroy Hogan, but remember to dispose of the rest of the NWO garbage when you finally clean the house that is WCW.

Finally, I would just like to thank everyone who we met on our travels from Detroit to Sturgis to Denver. For all of us who made that trip, the outstanding memory will be the enthusiasm and hospitality you all showed us. So once again, on behalf of all of us to all of you ... THANK YOU AND SEE YOU ALL AGAIN NEXT YEAR!

Regards

Colin Bowman
Editor-in-Chief/Publisher

CONTENTS

ISSUE 32 OCTOBER 1997 ISSUE 33 ON SALE NOVEMBER 4th 1997

FEATURES

10 ROAD TO STURGIS
13 ROAD WILD
22 ALL HAIL THE QUEEN
24 MY TIME IS NOW
26 LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE
30 THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN WRESTLING
33 NITRO GIRLS PULL-OUT
38 WHAT NOW?
40 TOUCHDOWN
44 SEEING THE LIGHT
46 BEWARE THE LEGEND
48 SENOR SONNY
50 NO REGRETS
56 CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS

DEPARTMENTS

21 HOT LINE BUZZ
42 BRAIN REACTION
54 MARSHALL PLAN
55 TALKING POINT
61 PUBLIC OPINION

For 57 years, the tiny city of Sturgis, South Dakota, population about 6,000, has been host to the Sturgis Rally Races. This action packed, week long event has brought bikers from across the country together to compete in various contests, take in some of the many events and exhibits, shop in every kind of shop imaginable, and gather together with their fellow motorcycle enthusiasts to "party hardy" and have a good time. And for the past two years WCW has been a part of this Sturgis celebration. The wrestlers and crew all agree that the Sturgis experience is one that could never be duplicated anywhere in the world.

You all saw the amazing atmosphere and the coming together of the 20,000 plus crowd at Road Wild on August 9th. What you didn't see, and what the editorial staff at WCW Magazine is proud to report to you, was what went on before and after the historic, and somewhat controversial, Pay-Per-View.

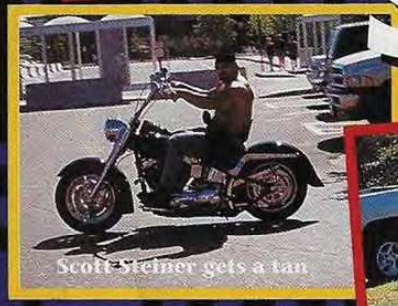
Publisher/Editor Colin Bowman, himself a dedicated biker, went along for the ride and the editorial staff followed him and his group from the safety of our own RV, chronicling both Colin's adventures and those of the wrestlers who braved the heat, the rain and the wind to ride the road to Sturgis ... and beyond.

What follows in an inside look at a most memorable week of bonding and feuding, roughing it and hanging out. It was an experience from start to finish and one we are proud to share with you.

ROAD TO STURGIS

Mall of America: Starting point

Colin & Reid Flair leave for Road Wild


Scott Steiner gets a tan

The All-Pro Mongo

Dogface

McMichael lays back

MONDAY, AUGUST 4th

The odyssey begins at 11:30 p.m. directly after the record breaking three hour Nitro. Grabbing any means of transportation possible, the wrestlers and crew speed off to meet their charter flight from Michigan Aviation in Pontiac, Michigan. The flight is late leaving and arrives in Minneapolis at the unGodly hour of 2:45 a.m. Considering that everyone is to assemble in the Marriott Courtyard at 9 a.m., they rush to their rooms to catch what little shut eye is possible before "Sturgis Week" officially begins.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5th

Publisher/Editor Colin Bowman's bad luck starts here when Sonny Onoo breaks his expensive digital camera first thing Tuesday morning. "Great photographers don't walk around with disposable Fuji cameras," Colin rants. It appears that Sonny, believing he could work the sophisticated camera, broke a piece off of it, causing the first two days of the trip to be unphotographed for the WCW website while we seek a new camera. ONOO!!!

The wrestlers and crew leave the Marriott and make the short ride to the Mall of America at 9 a.m. as scheduled. There, they are greeted by fans and are then given a police escort at 11 a.m. all the way to the freeway. Traveling in the group that we are following are Rick and Scott Steiner, The Giant, Diamond Dallas Page, Steve McMichael, Paul Orndorff and Colin Bowman. We have heard that Eric Bischoff, Marcus Bagwell and Big Bubba are also heading to Sturgis but have yet to see them.

Sting is Sighted ... or is He?

From our vantage point, we are able to catch sight sporadically of a black custom Harley, but the rider's face is hidden. However, his size and build lead us, and the others on the ride, to believe it is Sting, but the mystery rider never allows us close enough to verify this.

After riding 250 miles to Sioux Falls, the group stops to eat at Champps Sports Grill. WCW fans have heard the wrestlers will be there and mob them upon arrival. After lunch, DDP grabs Colin and they take off, the pair of them speeding through that last 90 miles faster than our RV can keep up. Finally, the day ends in Mitchell, South Dakota, where the group settles in for the night. So far, the ride has been uneventful and everyone seems laid back and relaxed. As the week progresses, however, most of the riders will be missing good old days of "uneventfulness."

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6th

The next morning, the group is up early. To their amazement, the entire hotel lobby and parking lot is swarming with fans. The wrestlers are always grateful and gracious to their fans and the mob delays them for well over an hour as they sign everything and anything presented to them and pose for countless pictures snapped on every kind of camera known to man. At last, they start the day's ride and all is quiet once again until they make a quick refuel stop.

Mongo Arrested?

Looking around in confusion, the group, most notably, Steve McMichael is circled by a mob of police cars. One officer asks for Steve McMichael to come forward and he does, wondering what he did to get called out of the group. When the officer begins reading Mongo his rights, the group breaks out in laughter and the officers pull out a stack of football cards from their cars and ask Mongo to sign them. Nothing would please McMichael more and he laughingly signs them all, and the group is then "released" and back on the road once again. Only 280 miles to Rapid City.

More Problems for Colin

After about 75 miles, with all the riders traveling in convoy, warning lights and signals are given about a huge log in the outside lane. Unfortunately for Colin, he sees the log too late. To avoid hitting another bike, he swerves to the outside, hitting the dirt and grass shoulder of the road. Luckily, he is able to keep control and carry on with the group, averting what could have been a disaster. However, his problems are far from over. While refueling at Kennebec, Colin's pride and joy, dubbed "Marilyn" develops an electrical fault that causes the bike to start on her own. The choice between carrying on with the ride and risk burning out the starter or taking a rest is a tough one but Colin decides to sit out the rest of the ride for the day. However we all continue on and stop at our scheduled destination of Kadoka.

The Steiners take over the Diner

The group is ready to eat and they want to eat BIG. After a day of riding, these guys don't want soup and salad and, from the looks of the diner,

A time to bond

The group assemble

Orndorff meets the fans

neither would be on the menu anyway. Indeed, such offerings as Rocky Mountain Oysters and pasta are the main dishes on the tattered menus. The conversation is fairly stilted, but Rick Steiner manages to keep the group's interest with an incessant, "My spaghetti's cold." After a moment, he says again, "My spaghetti is still cold." Everyone is too tired to explain that the spaghetti will only get colder as it sits, not warmer, so they dig into their somewhat mysterious meals. Rick, his cold spaghetti now only a memory, bores quickly and unsuccessfully tries for a first down against Steve McMichael with a 3 inch beanie ball. This is only a foreshadow of the McMichael/Steiner melee to come. Rick decides enough is enough and sends brother Scott into the kitchen to supervise the cooking. Scott, shaking his head in resignation, leaves to tell the cook how to make "hot" spaghetti.

The Steiners' bikes

The Giant's tank

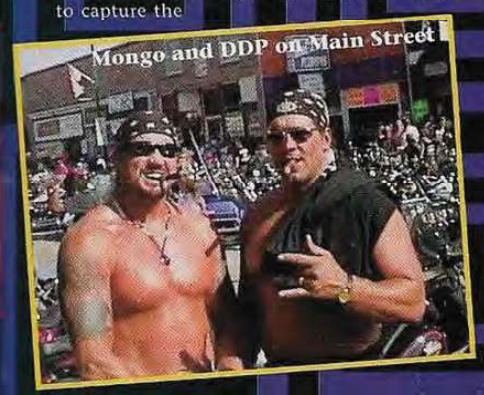
Finally the convoy is ready to make their way to Rapid City where Colin hopes he will find a good doctor, er, mechanic, for Marilyn.

At Last! Rapid City!!

Just after 4 p.m., the group arrives in Rapid City, only 25 miles from Sturgis and about 30 miles to where Road Wild will take place that Saturday evening. The group is staying in two separate hotels, the Days Inn and the Econolodge. The Econolodge residents take great pride in the fact that they have a 180 foot water slide ... and the guys at the Days Inn DON'T, although no one is thinking of sliding down a 180 foot slide at that moment. Fans, most on motorcycles, crowd the parking lots of both hotels, gathering to catch a glimpse, or perhaps get a handshake and an autograph, of their favorite wrestlers. The group is accommodating as always then head to their rooms for shower and a change of clothes. It's party time!

A Time For Bonding

Wednesday night, the guys head out to the local Howard Johnson's. The atmosphere among all the wrestlers, crew and staff is one of solidarity, due, in no small part, to Lex Luger's triumphant win over Hulk Hogan that past Monday to capture the World Heavyweight Belt. A feeling of unity seems to surround the wrestlers and guys that normally would be seen squaring off, now sit and talk about anything — anything but wrestling. Halfway through the ride, Curt Hennig had joined on his bike and, despite the newcomer's lack of affiliation with any one group, he is welcomed this night with no hesitation. The idea, for this night anyway, is to relax, kick back and have a good time. How long would that last? Well time would tell on that one.

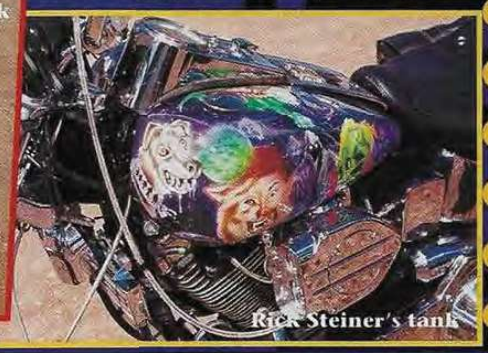

Mongo and DDP on Main Street

Halfway there

Many other wrestlers are in different parts of the city, signing autographs and posing for pictures at appointed places throughout the small town. WCW has invaded Sturgis and the fans are loving it.

The Crew Is Not QUITE So Happy.

As the wrestlers get to know their fans and mingle with the crowd, take in the sights and shop till they drop, the crew is hard at work in the hellacious heat, having to first bulldoze the area for the ring, then construct the entire ring, set up the lighting, erect huts for the wrestlers and production staff and make sure that everything is in place and in working order for Saturday's event. The cameras to be used are sealed in plastic in case of rain, which, thankfully, looks like it may not make an appearance any time soon. Rain and other inclement weather has been a worry from the start. Last year, it rained the entire day before the event and needless to say, the area around the ring was a mud pit. This year, however, the outlook is better and the crew is optimistic that Saturday will pass without a storm to rain on their parade, er, Pay-Per-View.


Rick Steiner's tank

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6th

This was WCW's first venture into the city of Sturgis this year. Group by group, they head out to the tiny town, lined with thousands upon thousands of motorcycles from the most expensive, custom built to the "beginner" bikes, and every type of bike in between. Shops, normally closed, are open for business selling everything from leather goods, to jewelry, to tattoos, as well as T-shirts by the thousands. Colin, DDP, and Steve McMichael decide to stroll through Main Street and the reaction is overwhelming. Everyone knows the two wrestlers and DDP is rushed by fans wherever he goes and takes it all in his good-natured stride. McMichael, a favorite of the Sturgis crowd, is approached somewhat hesitantly, as though he may tackle anyone in his path. However, once the fans see that he is not at all unapproachable, he is swamped with requests for autographs and pictures. Meanwhile, Colin's unlucky streak continues. Although Marylin has been fixed and no longer has a mind of her own (just the way Colin likes them ... motorcycles, that is), he has somehow lost his leather jacket with the custom painted wolf on the back. Although he is in a near panic, the others plead ignorance about its whereabouts. To help ease the pain of his loss, Colin and Dallas go to several of the shops on Main Street and have some very intricate (and very expensive, sorry Kim!) custom work done on their bikes.

The jacket turns up three days later in the possession of Scott Steiner who says he was just looking after it, as it had been left in the street. Colin is sceptical, but glad to get it back.

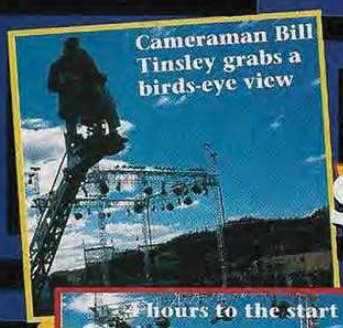
This is party night for the guys since they are on their own until Saturday early afternoon, so they all hit the local restaurants and bars, putting together an impromptu and, unlikely, band of Steve McMichael, The Steiners and Curt Hennig who decide that they can sing as well as they can wrestle but fail to prove it to anyone in listening range. Luckily the crowds are all in high spirits and the WCW fans make the night a special one as they mingle with the wrestlers and crew and show them all how to have fun "Sturgis style".

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8th

The mood of the whole group has turned somewhat somber. One more day until the big event. The wrestlers who didn't make the ride begin to arrive in small groups and the

DDP and Kim at Mount Rushmore

ROAD TO STURGIS


Cameraman Bill Tinsley grabs a birds-eye view

DDP with the appropriately named Road Kill

Main Street, Sturgis

4 hours to the start

various cliques begin to form as members of each arrive. Mongo joins Ric Flair and Chris Benoit, who have arrived early in the day and WCW is looking more like the WCW you see on TV, with the alliances seeming to fall into place as more wrestlers arrive. Alex Wright is horrified at the conditions in Sturgis and the cluttered streets and shakes his head, muttering something about Americans. Kimberly arrives and is whisked off by Dallas for a day of solitude and a trip to Mount Rushmore, before the next night's insanity. Jeff Jarrett and Debra arrive and are greeted by a fuming Steve McMichael in the hotel lobby. Push comes to shove and an argument ensues, ending in blows being exchanged. Rick Steiner makes the save and pulls the two apart defusing a potentially violent situation. The once solid group of fun loving biker-wrestlers is going back to the reality that is pro wrestling.

Colin's Words to the Wise

Colin takes a moment out of his day to remind anyone with in ear shot, "Do not invite Dallas Page to your house for breakfast. If you do, make sure you have chickens, hundreds of chickens, hens, things that lay eggs," he tells us all. A typical DDP breakfast, he explains, consists of a medium Porterhouse steak, 20 ounce of course, eight fried eggs, a stack of pancakes and syrup, coffee and ice water ... every single day. A few fans who overhear this proclamation rush away, seeking out egg laying hens no doubt.

The production crew is now fully assembled and they hold a cookout in the parking lot of the Days Inn for the wrestlers and crew. Afterwards, many of the wrestlers head out to see the movie "The Conspiracy Theory" and relax before the big day.

By 10:30 p.m., everyone goes to bed, knowing that the next day will be all work and no play.

THE BIG DAY: SATURDAY, AUGUST 9th

The day has arrived and as the various groups of wrestlers and crew members start assembling for the 1 p.m. arrival at the Sturgis ring site, the mood is now serious. Colin joins Lex Luger, The Giant, DDP, The Steiners and Steve McMichael for the ride a few miles away to the Sturgis Road Wild site. Still no sign of the NWO. It is believed that Hulk Hogan has them put up in some big fancy city hotel rather than a local inn like the rest of the wrestlers.

The 30 mile ride to Sturgis and through the town begins. Colin is honored to have Ric Flair's young son, Reid, as his passenger for the journey as the gang rides convoy style into town. Along Main Street, fans cheer wildly and rev their bike engines. The whole Sturgis community seems to know and appreciate WCW!

Arrival at the Site

Where previously there was nothing, a fully erected ring, complete with lighting, sound, announcers' equipment, concession and merchandise stands, bleachers and changing huts now stand. The entire area surrounding the ring is filled with fans, most on bikes, who have either slept there all night to get their coveted spot ringside or arrived hours before, willing to bake in the hot South Dakota sun for a chance to be at ringside for the event. Despite the PPV starting 5 hours later, the party has already begun as WCW blasts music through the huge speakers set up around the ring and the fans, flocking by the hundreds begin packing in next to each other for the night's event. The music and the atmosphere give the event a feeling of an open air concert and the wrestlers are feeling good about the show of support from the Sturgis fans. The wrestlers assemble with their respective stables; Horsemen with Horsemen, tag team partners together, alliances made over the past few months together, in portacabins, readying for the night's event.

The NWO Arrive

At last, the NWO arrive, escorted by a 30 biker security force. They are greeted by cheers upon their arrival and seem to take it all in stride. They remain totally separated from the WCW wrestlers, insisting on their own facilities and separate motor homes away from the WCW group and are accommodated accordingly.

Showtime

A very exciting show is marred only by rock throwing at the end and concern about the injury to DDP. Colin, still entrenched in his unlucky streak, manages to get hit with two rocks and a bottle but walks away, this time, relatively free of injury.

The show is over, and it is time to head back to the hotels and hit the hay. It has been a long day for all ...

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10th

The group is becoming smaller. DDP is hospitalized and Hennig drops out of the ride. Left riding other than security are Colin, Rick and Scott Steiner, The Giant, Steve McMichael, and Paul Orndorff. The weather is looking really threatening and the group has a 320 mile ride ahead of them to make it to Cheyenne, Wyoming: their destination. Despite the warnings of many, they decide to head out anyway and manage to get almost two hours of riding in before the driving rain and wind, along with intricate road works, causing roads to twist and turn dangerously, halt them. The decision is made that all things considered, it is just too unsafe to continue the ride. The bikes are then trailered up, leaving the guys with about an hour and a half with nothing to do.

Impromptu Shooting Practice

During the wait, the police escorts who have been surrounding the group on the ride, seal off an area and set up some targets for an impromptu shooting match. The wrestlers, totally disappointed in having to ride in trailers, begrudgingly use the time they have to wait to secure the bikes to target shoot. Being of competitive nature, a shooting competition ensues with Rick Steiner the winner. However, everyone ducks for cover when he turns around, gun in hand, to celebrate his victory.

Trouble in Paradise?

No one wants to be locked up in a trailer for the ride but there is no other choice. Being in such a close space with people, even your friends, can cause tempers to flare. While on the ride, everyone is pretty much alone with their thoughts, but being cooped up in a trailer forces everyone to interact and co-exist within the confines of very little space. Suddenly the very same guy you had been getting along fine with for days, can get on your nerves like nails on a chalkboard. Such seems to be the case with Steve McMichael and Rick Steiner. Stopping at a roadside diner, the group piles out of the trailer and heads for the two pool table, all-country music juke box, hole in the wall. Mongo and Rick decide to play pool but soon realize that the rules are different in Texas (McMichael's home) than they are in Georgia (Rick's home) because neither can agree on anything about the game. They manage to get in three games without damaging each other or the equipment but by game four, the place starts clearing out, the people instinctively sensing trouble. By game five, the two are going at it with pool balls and cues. As Colin so eloquently puts it when the waitress asks him to stop the two from arguing, "Have YOU ever tried to hold back a Steiner or an All-Pro?"

It is at this point that the Steiners/McMichael and Benoit tag match is signed. The promoter just cannot pass up the genuine heat that is going through the veins of Rick and Mongo. Finally, it is decided that the two need to be separated and each goes to a separate trailer.

Cheyenne, Here we Come!

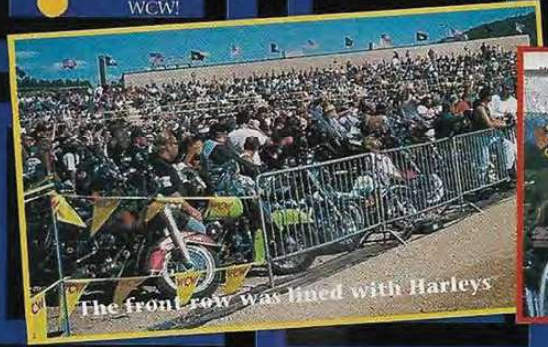
After what seems likes an eternity, the group arrives in Cheyenne. It is 8 p.m. and they are exhausted. Everything in town is closed by 10 p.m. anyway and that's just as well since the guys are in need of sleep. They still have a 100 mile drive to Denver the next morning and a Nitro to do the next night!

MONDAY, AUGUST 11th

The next morning, the sun is shining and it is 75 degrees out. The bikes are taken off the trailer and the group, in better spirits than the day before, head off to Denver and the luxury of the Marriott Hotel waiting for them just 100 miles away.

The other wrestlers are chartered in for Nitro and are arriving as the group pulls up. Just another Monday. The show goes on and life as we all know it goes back to "normal." However, the previous week has left an indelible print on everyone who was there, whether they were riding or participating in Road Wild. For us, who followed from a climate controlled van, we wouldn't have had it any other way. And, we have been told in no uncertain terms, that for the guys who did the ride, neither would they.

Who knows? Maybe next year, the whole staff will ride alongside Colin for Road Wild. NOT!


The front row was lined with Harleys

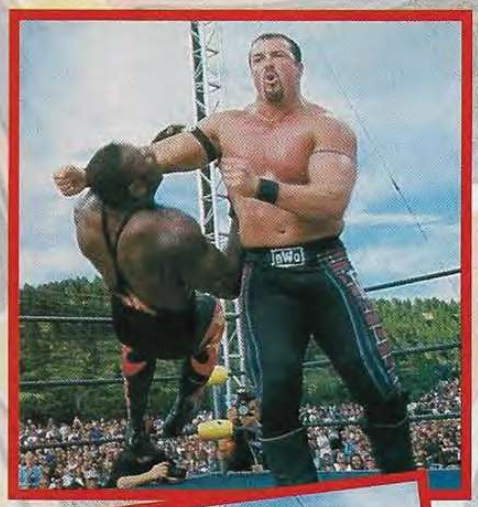
The audience are ready

The crew makes their final checks before showtime

ROAD WILD

August 9, 1997 Live From Sturgis, South Dakota

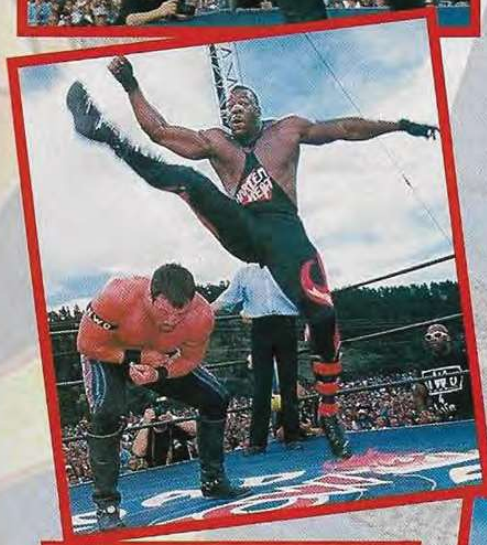
The annual Sturgis bike rally was the setting for WCW's second annual ROAD WILD extravaganza. Some 20,000 fans were on hand, the majority of those on motorcycles, giving this outdoor event a unique and exciting feel. Road Wild saw the World Heavyweight belt change hands, an upset for the Tag Team Championship contenders and some wild brawling under the blazing South Dakota sun and, as the sun set on this exciting event, the viewing audience was "treated" to a victory party by the new Heavyweight Champion of the World and his cohorts.

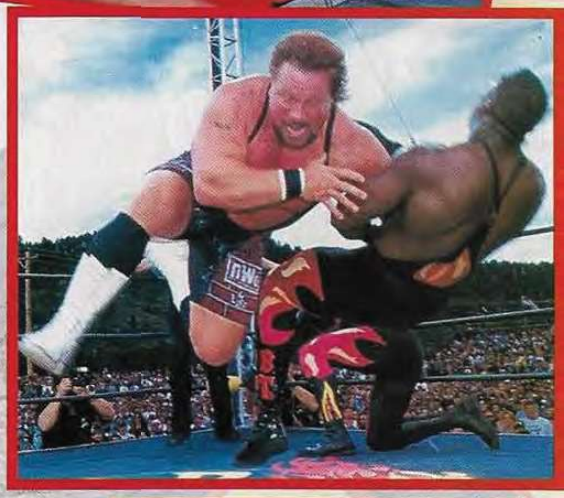


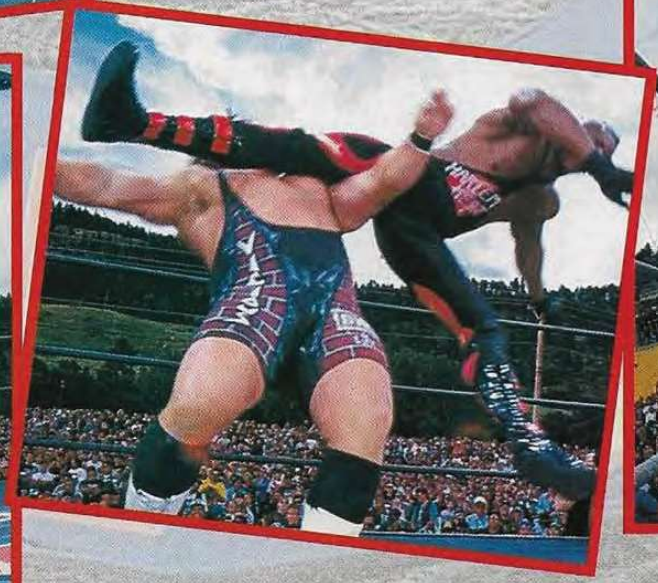
HARLEM HEAT VS VICIOUS & DELICIOUS

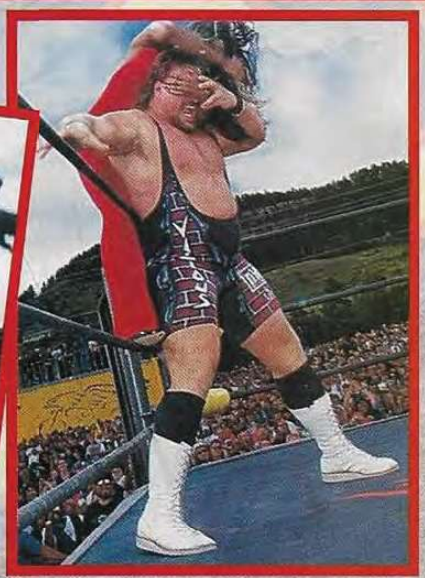
Scott Norton and Buff Bagwell, now known as Vicious and Delicious, held their own against the formidable team of Stevie Ray and Booker T. but the heat was on when, after nearly 9 minutes of intense grappling, Jacquelyn walked to ringside. The Heat had lost their manager and several matches and seemed to be the underdogs going into this match up. However, with Miss Jacquelyn by their side, they showed their incredible ability and a new found focus and sent the team from the NWO to defeat. After a devastating shoulder-breaker by Norton to Booker T. Jacquelyn jumped on Norton's back and Booker T. extracted his revenge by using his Harlem Sidekick to pin Norton to the mat and win the match at 10:00. The Heat's win gave Norton, the "Vicious" in Vicious and Delicious, something to think about as this was the first time since he paired with Bagwell that a team has gotten the upperhand on this big brute.

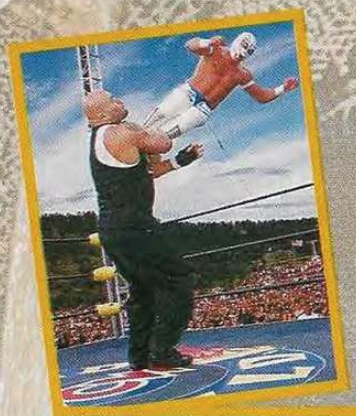
WINNERS: HARLEM HEAT W/JACQUELYN





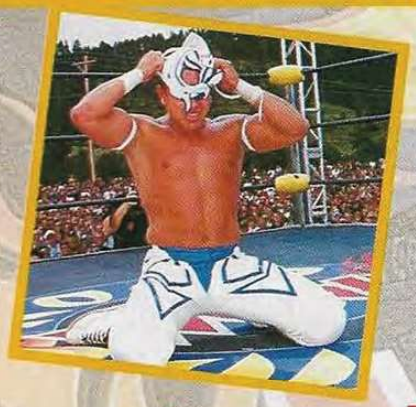


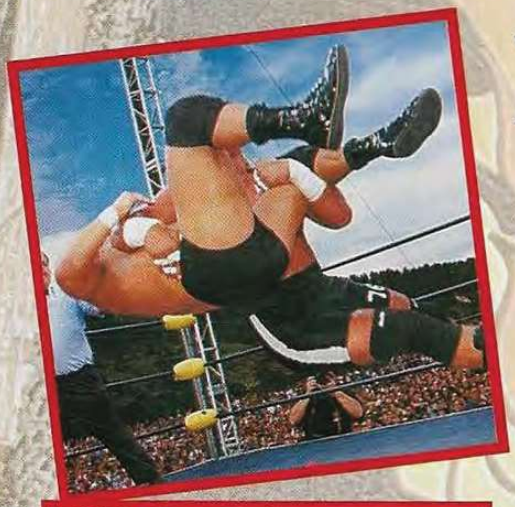




K-DOG VS REY MYSTERIO JR.
MEXICAN DEATH MATCH

Mysterio, quite possibly still not 100% from the devastating leg injury delivered by K-Dog a few weeks back, looked to be ready to take on the world. K-Dog, Mysterio's former friend, mentor and Luchador comrade, was ready to punish Mysterio once again and started out quickly concentrating on Mysterio's injured knee. Time and again, K-Dog worked over Mysterio's knee, extracting screams of pain from the high flier. Rey, wanting to settle the score, went after the Dog with focused determination, flattening his opponent with a clothesline. However, by the 9 minute mark, the inevitable end of the match was clear. Mysterio, unable to stand, suffered the humiliation of losing his mask at the hands of K-Dog but quickly covered his face from the viewing audience. Humiliation, though, was not enough for K- Dog who was out for total

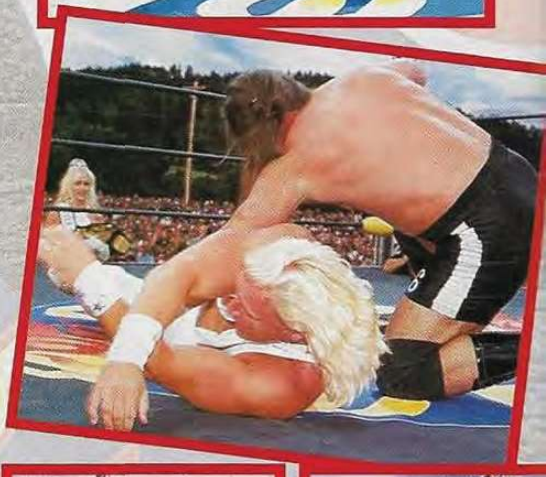


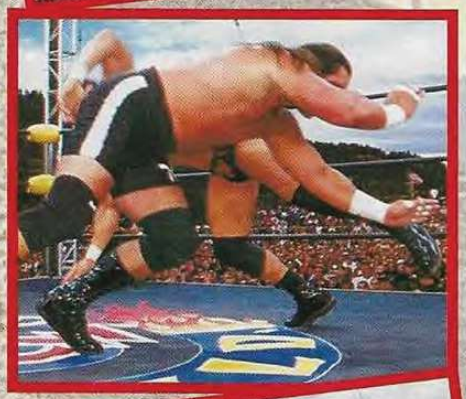


STEVE "MONGO" McMICHEAL & CHRIS BENOIT VS DEAN MALENKO & JEFF JARRETT w/Debra

Sometimes you just can't figure out why some people do the things they do. Such was the case with Jeff Jarrett's outrageous behavior against his partner, Dean Malenko. After begging Malenko to be his partner and promising to watch the Ice Man's back, Jarrett turned out to be the scoundrel that McMichael had once labeled him. Jarrett tagged in for under 40 seconds then tagged his partner, Malenko, in to face first McMichael, then Benoit. Holding his own for the better part of the match, Malenko began tiring and was faced with a stiff elbow and a snap suplex from Benoit and a powerslam from McMichael. Finally after what seemed to be an eternity, Jarrett was tagged in at the 6:40 mark. In an astounding turn of events, McMichael, who was eager to destroy Jarrett for his betrayal of him with Debra, was barely able to get a move on Jarrett before Jarrett literally laid down on the mat and forced McMichael to pin him at the 7:09 mark. Jarrett then walked away leaving Malenko back in the ring to fend for himself. Malenko, despite his tremendous ring ability, was no match for the two Horsemen who delivered a Benoit tombstone piledriver and a headbutt splash, and culminating the match with a McMichael tombstone piledriver for the win. (9:26)

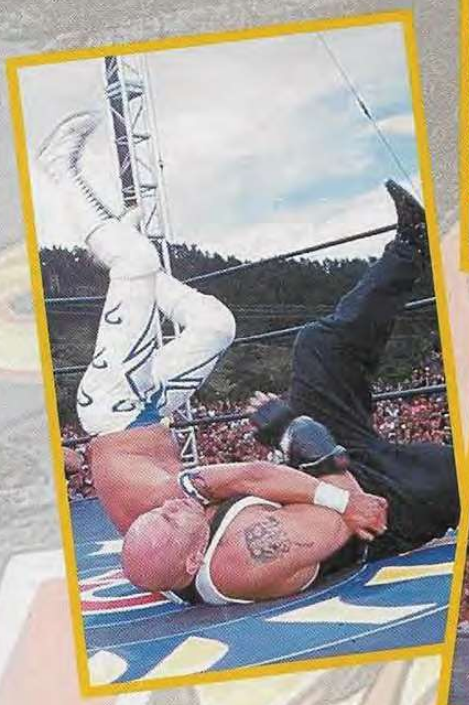
WINNER: CHRIS BENOIT AND STEVE MCMICHAEL VIA PINFALL

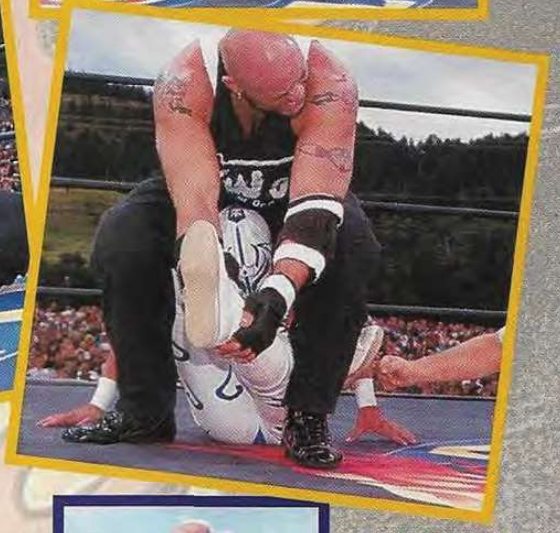


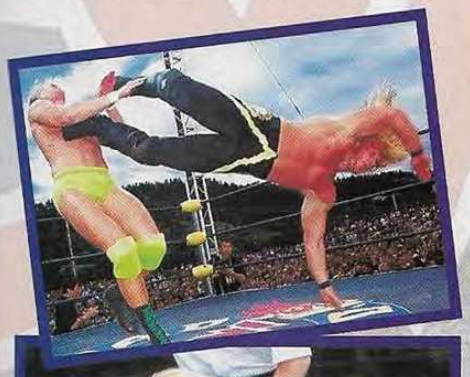


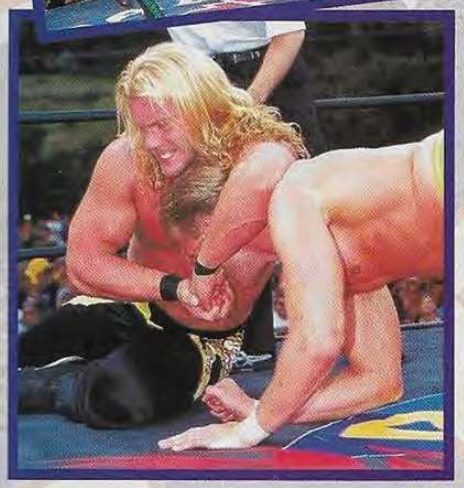
destruction of the smaller man. Mysterio, in a show of pure bravery, made a final attempt to topple the monster who was once known as Konan, by attempting his trademark huracanrana but was caught in mid air. After a cradle DDT that knocked him senseless, Mysterio was caught in K-Dog's Tequila Sunrise and , finally, after several moments of determination, tapped out at the 11:01 mark. But this was not the end of this brutal match. K-Dog, unsatisfied with simply a victory over Mysterio, refused to let go of his maneuver after the bell sounded and held Mysterio for several long moments, reinjuring his knee. Mysterio was taken from the ring on a stretcher and K-Dog walked away triumphantly. Will the Luchadors stand for this kind of behavior from one of their own? And, will Mysterio be back to extract revenge on this brutal opponent? We are betting that a man with Mysterio's guts will be back and will be seeking revenge once again.

WINNER: K-DOG BY SUBMISSION





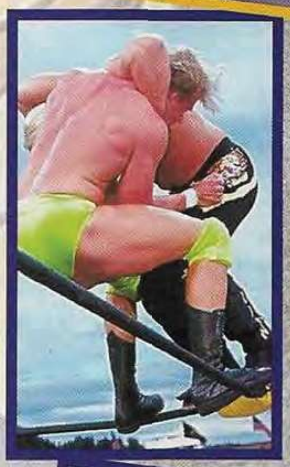


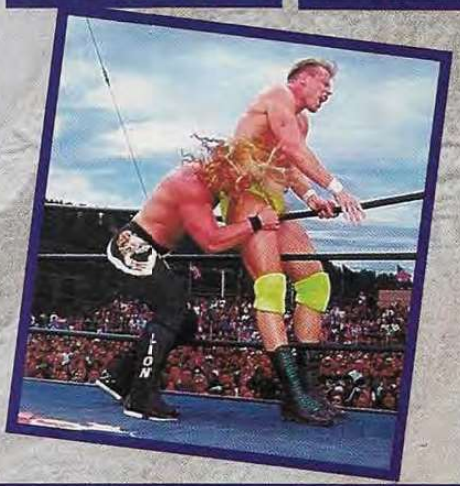


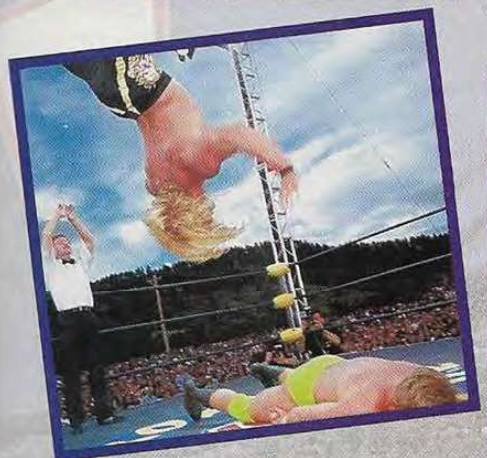
CHRIS JERICHO VS ALEX WRIGHT
CRUISERWEIGHT TITLE

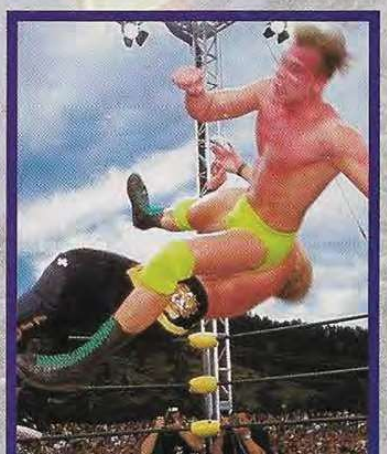
Jericho walked into the ring with one thing on his mind: Winning back the belt that he had lost to Wright only 12 days before. And Jericho put up a valiant fight against the new Cruiserweight Champion. Delivering several fast moves to Wright, Jericho was then caught in a standing headlock which infuriated him and fueled his determination even more. Jericho answered with a series of moves ending with a springboard dropkick to Wright, which sent the champ to the outside. Another springboard into a crossbody block to the outside by Jericho flattened Wright. Back inside the ring, the action was heating up. Each man seemed to counter the other's moves until the tides turned when Wright delivered a superplex from the top rope, then found himself being rolled up by Jericho. Just as the viewing audience thought the belt had changed hands, Wright reversed the rollup, held the tights and got the 3 count to retain his Cruiserweight title.(13:00)

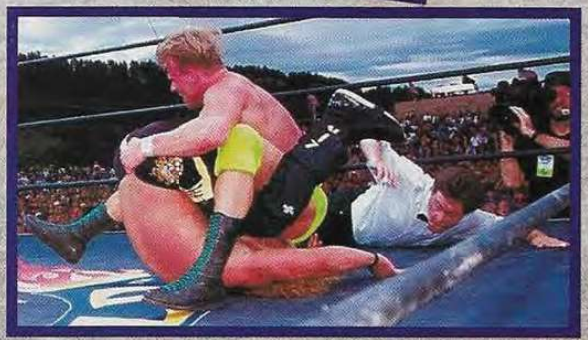
WINNER: ALEX WRIGHT BY PINFALL

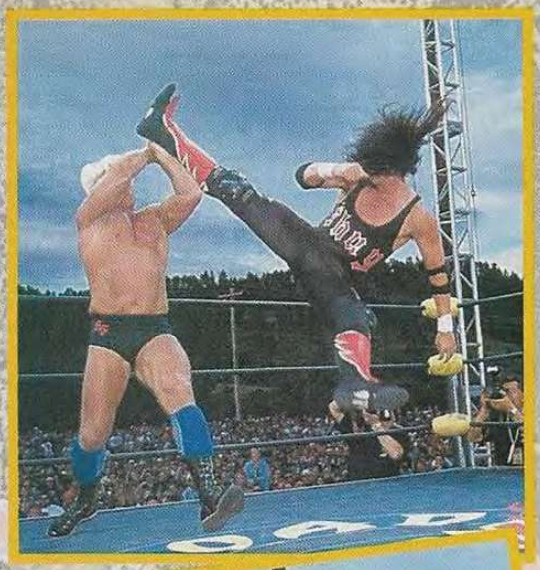








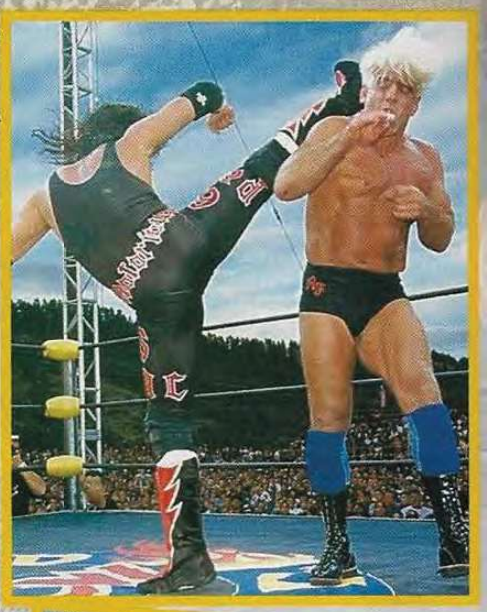


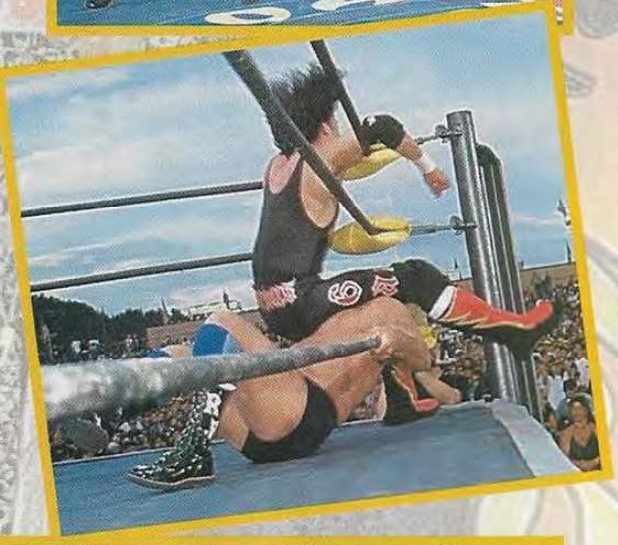


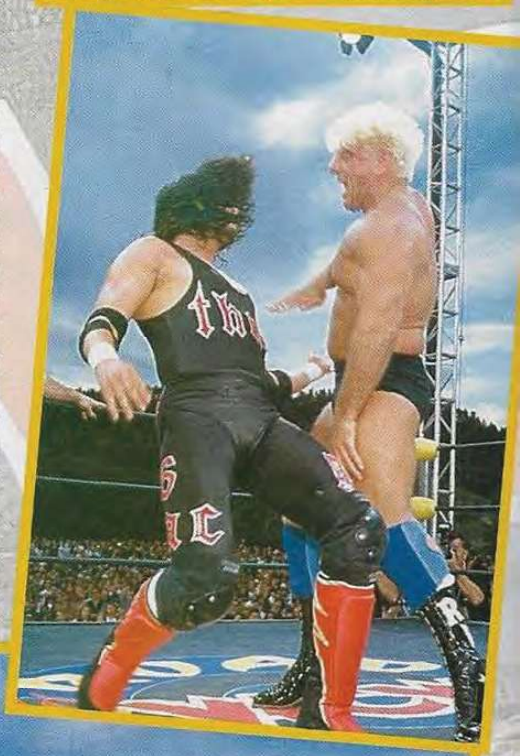
SYXX VS RIC FLAIR

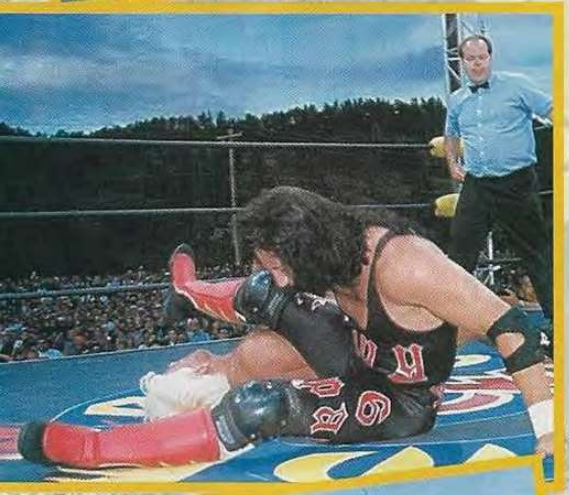
Syxx and Flair just can't seem to agree on anything these days and this match was intended to somehow put to rest the ever-increasing barbs made to and from each of these two men. Without the backing of The NWO, Syxx went to the ring to wrestle his nemesis one on one. Flair immediately took control of the match stunning Syxx with a chop that sent him over the top rope. When Syxx returned to the ring, it was visible to all that he was no longer taking the 13 time champ lightly. Syxx went after Flair with intensity, slapping him and cornering the Nature Boy and applying his patented Bronco Buster on him. Syxx then got Flair in a headlock but Flair refused to submit and managed to get to his feet. Syxx responded with a flurry of moves: A scoop slam, guillotine leg drop off the ropes and several kicks and punches. Just as it looked like this NWO member was going to get the victory, Flair seemed to get a second wind and came back with a vengeance! Weakening Syxx by moving out after a double flip from the ropes which could have been the finishing move for Syxx, Flair then managed to avoid the buzzkiller and to stop a second Bronco Buster attempt to roll up The NWO's thug and get the pin. (11:06)

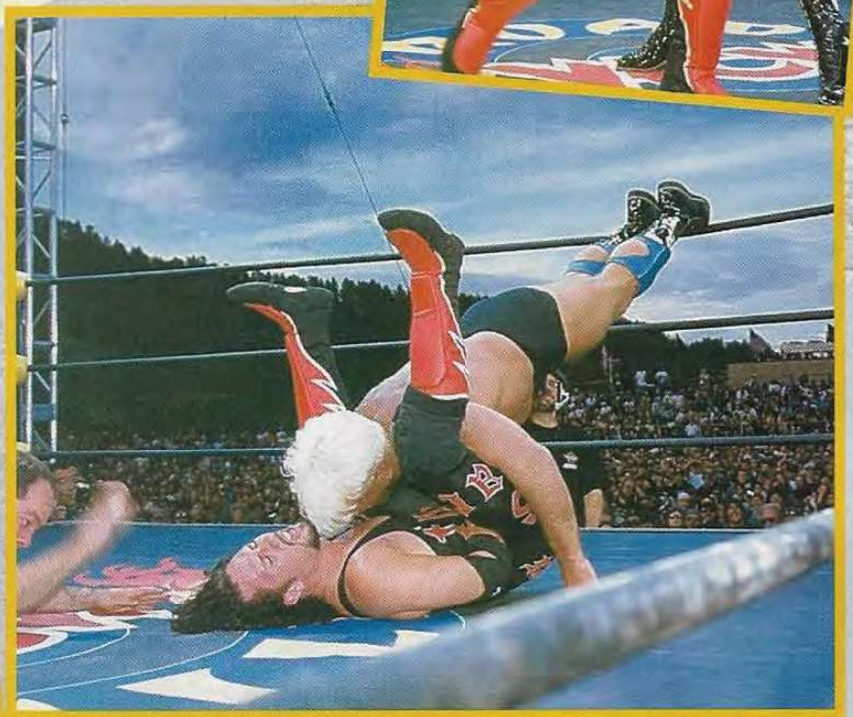
WINNER: RIC FLAIR BY PINFALL

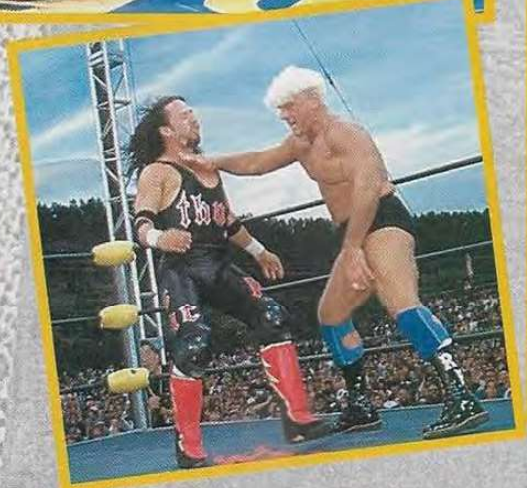








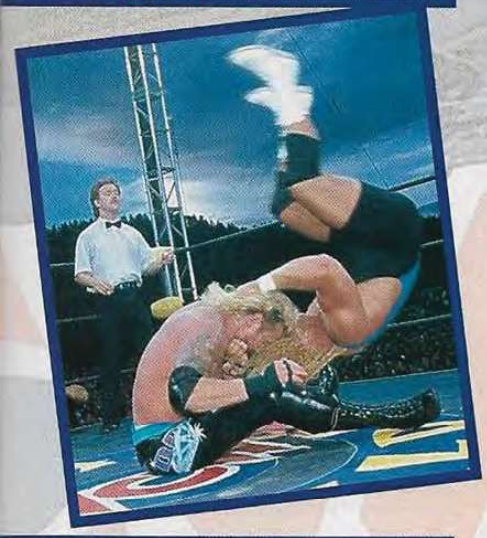


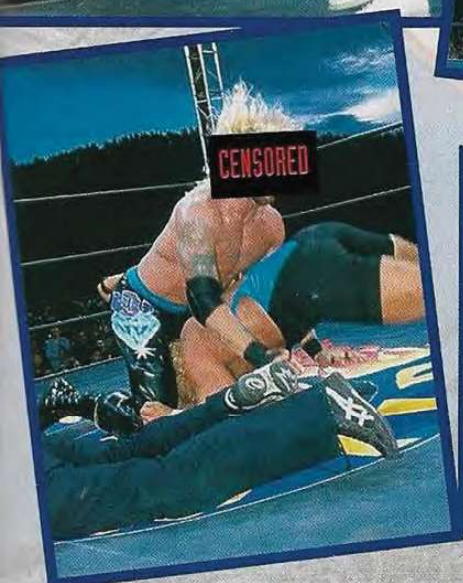


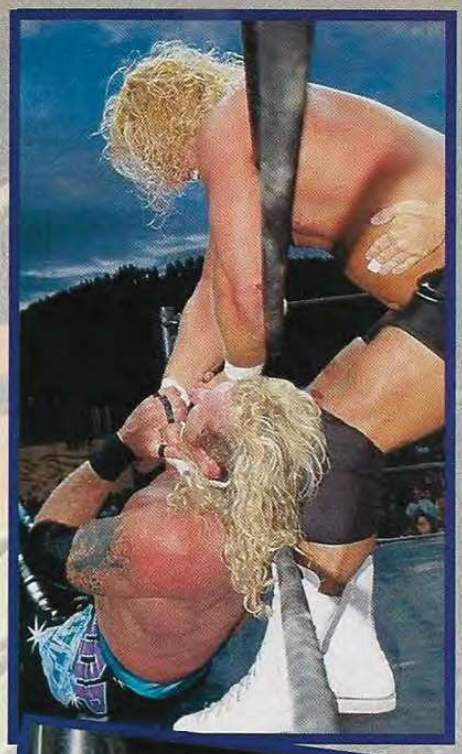
DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE w/Kimberly VS CURT HENNIG

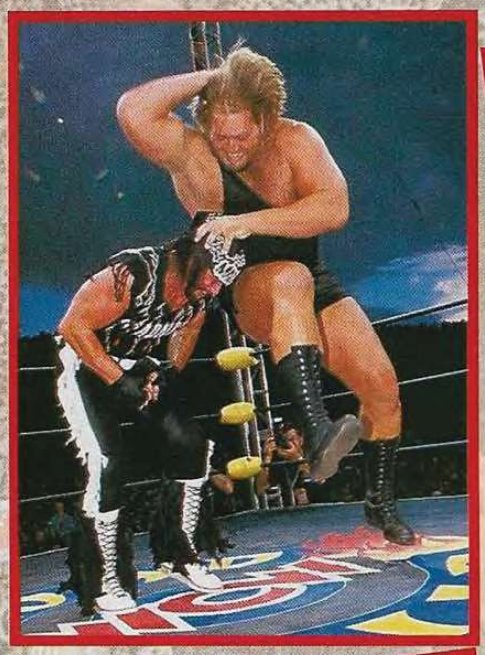
This was a grudge match that began when Hennig walked off at The Bash at the Beach, leaving DDP alone in the tag match and has continued ever since with sneak attacks and fights breaking out whenever these two were in the same building. The match began as a brawl as the two men took their anger out on each other with a flurry of fists and uppercuts. The fury could be plainly seen on both men's faces as they countered each other's moves and took shots at one another. Hennig delivered several hard slaps to DDP exclaiming, "Nobody beats Curt Hennig." Determined to prove that, Hennig went for a leg breaker and tried to snap DDP's leg. Hennig was relentless, concentrating on DDP's leg, looking more to destroy, rather than to simply beat, The Diamond Cutter King. As the crowd revved their bike engines in support of DDP, he gained back some momentum, however, unseen by either the ref of DDP, Hennig was busy exposing the turnbuckle. Knocking into the ref after a shot from DDP, Hennig used the unofficiated time to slam DDP's head into the exposed metal. Hennig then went for the Fisherman's suplex but DDP managed to kick out. After some mayhem in the ring, Ric Flair, who had been grooming Hennig to be a Horseman, ran out and attacked DDP but ended up on the receiving end of the Diamond Cutter, unseen by the ref who was once again knocked silly by these two brawlers. Hennig managed a Fisherman's suplex for the 3 count as the engines roared in disapproval. (9:52)

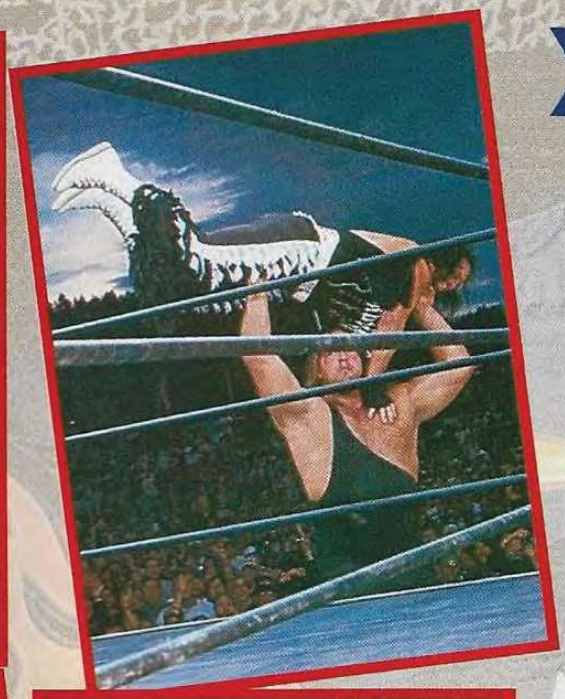
WINNER: CURT HENNIG BY PINFALL







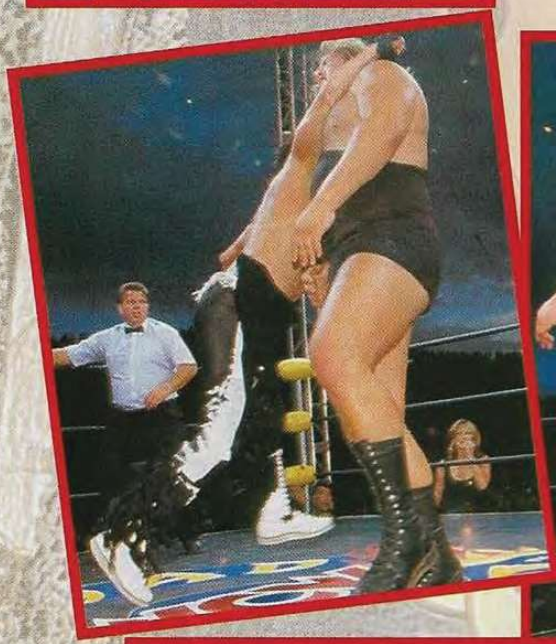


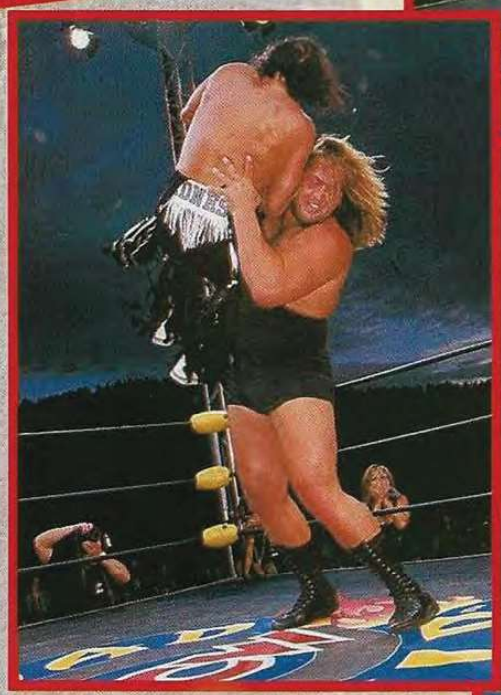


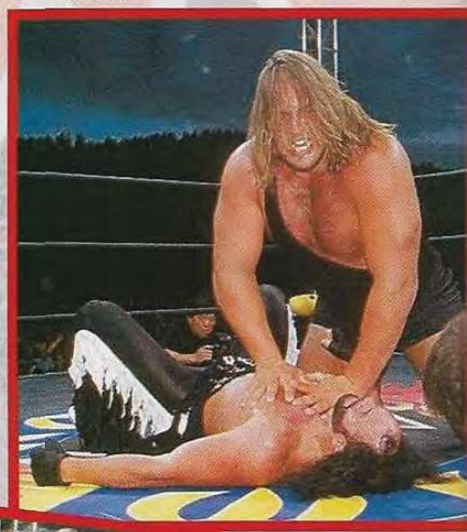
THE GIANT VS RANDY SAVAGE w/Elizabeth

After weeks of taunting, The Giant walked into the ring intent on showing The Macho Man just what macho really means. After thwarting several attempts by Savage to enter the ring, The Giant went outside where Savage actually used Miss Elizabeth as a shield from the big man's rage. Once in the ring, The Giant went to work delivering two hard forearms to the middle of Savage's back, sending him running outside the ring in pain. The Giant, not one to patiently wait in the ring for his opponent, followed Savage who pushed Elizabeth toward The Giant to protect himself from the wrath of the bigger man. The Giant simply picked Liz up like a baby and set her aside then threw Savage into the ring for some real action. Savage concentrated on the Giant's legs hoping to keep this huge man on the mat and unable to use his patented chokeslam. Three hard clotheslines by Savage seemed not to even phase the Giant and an elbow drop from the top ring only received a two count for Savage. The second elbow drop attempt ended in disaster for Savage as the Giant thwarted his attempt and chokeslammed him for the pin. (6:05)

WINNER: THE GIANT BY PINFALL







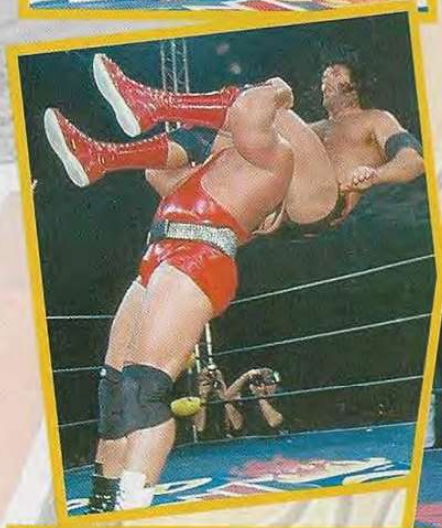
THE OUTSIDERS VS THE STEINER BROTHERS w/Ted DiBiase

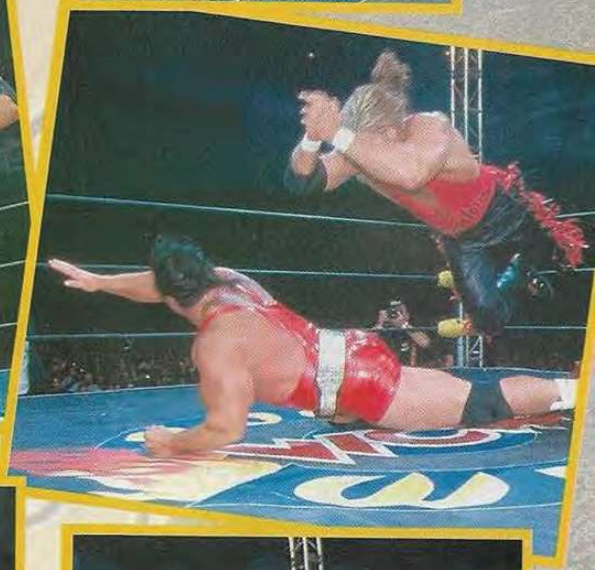
WORLD TAG TEAM TITLE MATCH

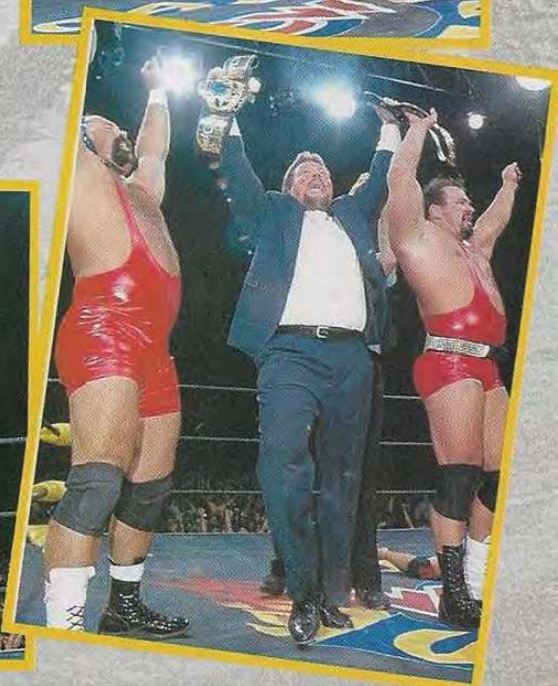
They say cheaters never win and winners never cheat. Well, whoever "they" are must not have been watching this match. The Steiner Brothers worked long and hard for the coveted title match against the Outsiders and finally, they were in the ring looking at the belts that, just moments later, could be around their waists. There was no doubt about it, these brothers were out to win and win they did, but unfortunately for the Steiners, these winners didn't cheat but the cheaters DID win as no belts changed hands despite the victory by the Steiners. The match started out with the Steiners coming out on their motorcycles to the delight of the Sturgis crowd. A brutal match followed with each team delivering punishment to the other. Hall and Nash show their NWO colors by double-teaming every time the official's back was turned but a determined Steiner Brothers team managed to hold their own even against the cheap shots from the Outsiders. Scott Steiner took amazing punishment from both Outsiders as The NWO team fended off any attempt for Rick to tag in. Finally after Hall delivered a bulldog off the top rope to Scott Steiner, Rick Steiner ran in and diverted the Outsider's edge about to be delivered to his brother. Rick then cleared the ring, flattening Hall and Nash at the 14:47 mark. The Steiners managed to throw Nash out of the ring, and as Rick was about to cover Hall for the pin, Nash pulled referee Nick Patrick out of the ring at the count of two. Patrick then ended the match by disqualification. Despite a heated argument between Ted DiBiase and Nick Patrick, the belts were given back to The Outsiders who strutted triumphantly around the ring to the disapproving sound of roaring motorcycle engines. (15:32)

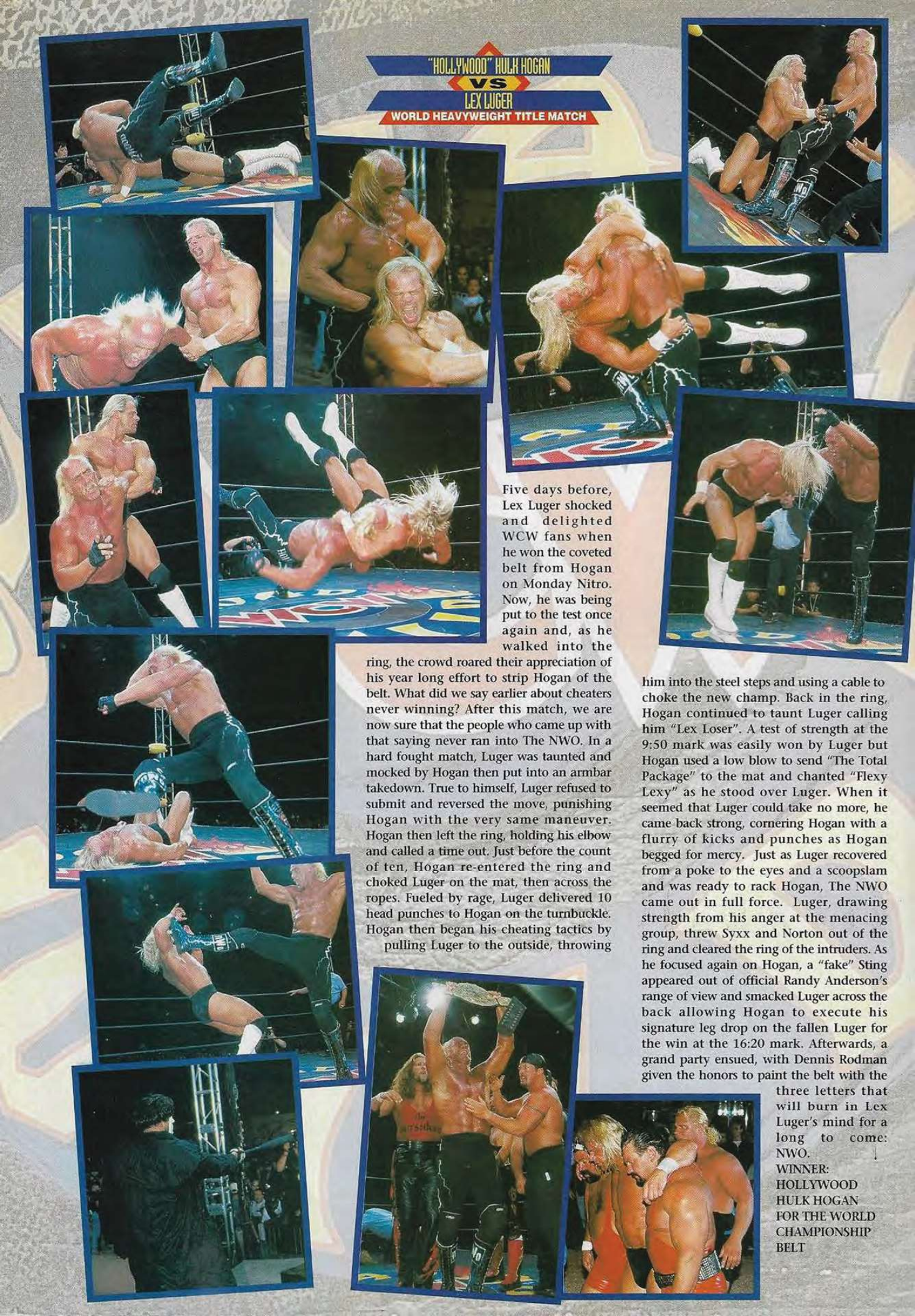
WINNER: THE STEINER BROTHERS BY DISQUALIFICATION

OUTSIDERS RETAIN THE BELTS









"HOLLYWOOD" HULK HOGAN
VS
LEX LUGER
WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE MATCH

Five days before, Lex Luger shocked and delighted WCW fans when he won the coveted belt from Hogan on Monday Nitro. Now, he was being put to the test once again and, as he walked into the ring, the crowd roared their appreciation of his year long effort to strip Hogan of the belt. What did we say earlier about cheaters never winning? After this match, we are now sure that the people who came up with that saying never ran into The NWO. In a hard fought match, Luger was taunted and mocked by Hogan then put into an armbar takedown. True to himself, Luger refused to submit and reversed the move, punishing Hogan with the very same maneuver. Hogan then left the ring, holding his elbow and called a time out. Just before the count of ten, Hogan re-entered the ring and choked Luger on the mat, then across the ropes. Fueled by rage, Luger delivered 10 head punches to Hogan on the turnbuckle. Hogan then began his cheating tactics by pulling Luger to the outside, throwing him into the steel steps and using a cable to choke the new champ. Back in the ring, Hogan continued to taunt Luger calling him "Lex Loser". A test of strength at the 9:50 mark was easily won by Luger but Hogan used a low blow to send "The Total Package" to the mat and chanted "Flexy Lexy" as he stood over Luger. When it seemed that Luger could take no more, he came back strong, cornering Hogan with a flurry of kicks and punches as Hogan begged for mercy. Just as Luger recovered from a poke to the eyes and a scoopslam and was ready to rack Hogan, The NWO came out in full force. Luger, drawing strength from his anger at the menacing group, threw Syxx and Norton out of the ring and cleared the ring of the intruders. As he focused again on Hogan, a "fake" Sting appeared out of official Randy Anderson's range of view and smacked Luger across the back allowing Hogan to execute his signature leg drop on the fallen Luger for the win at the 16:20 mark. Afterwards, a grand party ensued, with Dennis Rodman given the honors to paint the belt with the three letters that will burn in Lex Luger's mind for a long to come: NWO.

WINNER:
HOLLYWOOD
HULK HOGAN
FOR THE WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIP
BELT

HOTLINE BUZZ

by MARK MADDEN

The King of all Wrestling Media

DISCLAIMER: This column features the comments and thoughts of Mark Madden. WCW Magazine nor WCW endorse or agree with his opinions and any complaints should be made to the man himself.

For years, Ted DiBiase had it all.

Or so he thought.

Billionaire Ted led the most opulent lifestyle pro wrestling has ever seen. First class travel, hotel suites, limousines, a wad of hundreds ... everybody had their price for Ted DiBiase, and Ted was willing to pay it. Ted handed out the cash, and those who took it – fans, wrestlers, promoters – paid a price in degradation and humiliation.

Ted was one of the most successful wrestlers the sport has ever seen. When a herniated disk cut his in-ring career short, he became one of the most successful managers the sport has ever seen.

When DiBiase arrived in WCW almost a year ago, he bankrolled The NWO, throwing long green at everyone the organization wanted. He was on top once more. But something was missing.

It was his dad's approval.

"Iron Mike" DiBiase, a pretty formidable pro wrestler in his own right, died in 1969 after suffering a heart attack in the ring. He was 45.

But Ted DiBiase has a very strong religious faith. He knows his dad is watching. And he finally realized that his dad might not like all that he's seen. "Somebody asked me a question not long ago: 'Ted, what would your father think of what you've become?'" DiBiase said. "And you know, that question hit me like a brick to the face."

Oh, Ted DiBiase is still rich. He'll become even richer when his new autobiography, "Everybody Has Their Price," starts selling copies.

But Dibiase has changed his ways. He quietly disappeared from wrestling for a few months, divesting himself of The NWO in the process. No matter to The NWO – they had long since become a self-sustaining unit financially. But then Billionaire Ted showed up on TNT's Monday Nitro managing the Steiner Brothers and boy, talk about a match made in heaven! If any wrestlers ever needed a manager to think and talk for them, The Einsteiners certainly do. Just like that, DiBiase was the proverbial "good guy".

And just like that, he was a threat to The NWO. As good as Kevin Nash and Scott Hall are as a team, it seems only a matter of time before the Steiners relieve The Outsiders of the WCW World Tag Team titles under DiBiase's leadership.

DiBiase has heard the cheers of the fans before. But not for well over ten years. "It's unbelievable," DiBiase said, laughing. "It feels different. But it feels good." As noted, DiBiase is now an author. His autobiography is an inside look at his wrestling career, including the origin of his "Billionaire Ted" persona. It talks frankly about how his lifestyle got out of control and how his faith saved him. DiBiase's book is required reading for any wrestling fan.

I've known DiBiase for a number of years. One of his wrestling mentors, Terry Funk, is also one of my wrestling mentors. I've always known that Ted is a good guy. I'm just happy that now, you all know it too.

This column has long sung the praises of Alex Wright's massive potential. Now, Wright is realizing his potential. And you don't like it.

That's your problem.

When Wright went out of his way to be sugary-sweet, to flash his dimples, to be a nice guy, to shake hands, you didn't appreciate it. You booed him anyway. Shame on you.

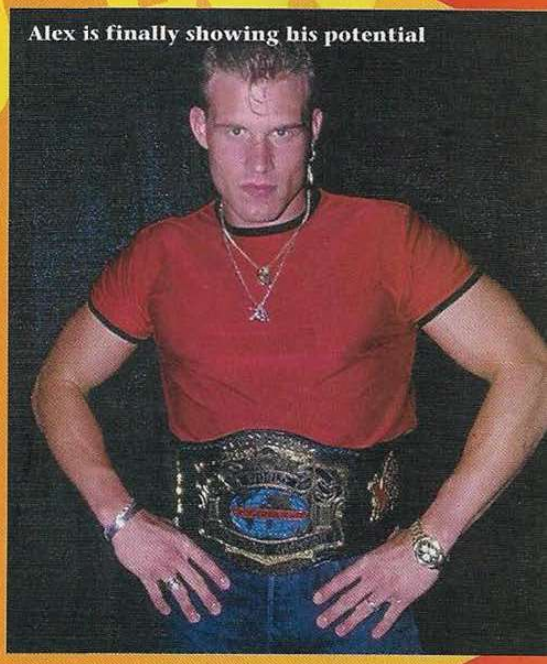
This is a kid barely out of his teens. Sure, maybe the techno-dancing was a bit misguided, but he meant well. You jeered him. Insulted him. Heaped abuse on him. So he did what any kid would do. He started acting like a jerk. Good for him. Bad for his opponents.

The only approval Alex Wright wants now is the approval of his father, legendary European wrestler Steven Wright. And as long as Alex wins, dad approves.

Alex Wright goes straight ahead now. He still utilizes his great scientific skills, but he punches. He kicks. He chokes. He cheats. He wins. He still dances, but now there is an almost obscene edge to his gyrations. He punctuates his big moves with a sort of salute. When he talks, he proclaims that everyone is jealous of him, of his looks, of his ability. He's right. As I write this, Alex Wright is Television Champion, his second major title.

In my opinion, it's only the beginning for the kid. Much more glory is ahead. The fans should remember this: If you don't like what Alex Wright is, it's your fault. You made him this way. You drove him to this. Alex Wright should remember this: Germans traditionally start off the battle pretty fast and furious, then fade.

Don't let up. Watch your back. And don't let the Russians attack.



Alex is finally showing his potential

(Mark Madden hosts the WCW Hotline on Wednesdays andFridays.

He is the editor of Penguins Report, a hockey publication based in Pittsburgh, and hosts a sports talk show on WTAE-AM 1250.)

All Hail The Queen

Don't be fooled this is a tough lady

Bobby "The Brain" Heenan was, arguably, the best manager this sport has ever seen. Hated to no end, he always had his men in championship matches. Winning or losing didn't really matter, they were there and, thus, regularly received healthy paychecks — after Heenan's cut, of course. Heenan has since retired from that racket and now focuses all of his attention on broadcasting. He is, after all, the self-proclaimed "Best broadcast-journalist in the business."

But who's the next great manager? There are several in WCW with qualifications. Let's look at the five favorites:

- **TED DiBIASE. Money can buy championships.**
- **"MOUTH OF THE SOUTH" JIMMY HART. Fallen on hard times of late, despite a drastic change in his dress.**
- **JAMES VANDENBURG. Too new, too strange to rank too high.**
- **SONNY ONOO. Conniving as anyone.**
- **JACQUELYN. Delivers one bad-@#$ suplex.**

Find your favorite — or least favorite — among this bunch? Who's the best? Where do you rank the rest? Well, we think — and this is gonna shock the starch right out of you — the next great manager isn't even listed. Nope, the one with the greatest star power for the future is none other than Queen Debra. (You can pick your chin up off the floor.)

She has stepped into fray

Queen Debra has, we feel, everything necessary to shine brighter than all in the 21st Century. Let's look at some of her qualities:

- BEAUTY. Don't start with the blonde jokes around her ... they don't apply. She's won, what, 300 beauty pageants?
- INTELLIGENCE. She has a degree in advertising from the University of Alabama.
- GUTS. Her husband, Steve "Mongo" McMichael, is one tough cookie. He's rugged and solid, a man who hunts rattle snakes for a hobby.

Still, Debra walked out on him for another wrestler when she thought he wasn't rising to the top as quickly as she wanted.

- DETERMINATION. She wanted Jeff Jarrett in the Four Horsemen, she got him in. She has great powers of persuasion.
- HUMOR. Here's what she said after appearing in Sturgis, S.D., for the annual biker filled Pay-Per-View: "Don't get me going on that place. That place is just hideous. There were some of the fattest, ugliest women I had ever seen in my life. If you put together all of the cellulite at that place, my gosh, it could have stretched around the world three or four times. I don't know what it is with those women out there ... the uglier they are, the more they show? I don't understand that. Someone classy and beautiful like myself, I cover up. I have more clothes on then any of them, and I should be the one showing myself. There were so many ugly, tattooed hags showing it all; it was disgusting. There were women there with more hair on their face than on the top of their head. It was just nasty, degrading to be there."

Brains and beauty

- MONEY. Daddy was a well-known Southern land owner ... and we're not talking swamp land.
- EXPERIENCES. Debra was a world-traveler before she got into wrestling. She married a celebrity (for the money), then rode his coat-tails to the Super Bowl and Pro Bowl parties. Plus, she has even met the President.

If Lex Luger is The Total Package, then Queen Debra is The Perfect Package.

"I have certain goals in wrestling that "Mongo" — after sitting back, watching and analyzing — cannot help me get to. Mongo was an excellent football player; we all know that. He was an All-Pro, a Super Bowl winner, but, this wrestling is a little out of his league," Queen Debra said. "Whatever I do, I like to excel in. And I excel right away. With "Mongo", he was holding me down; I wasn't able to reach my potential with him. It's like the whole Four Horsemen group. I just started noticing that The Four Horsemen are like dead. They are like a bunch of fossils, nothing I needed to be associated with.

"I've been a big supporter of Jeff Jarrett, for a long, long time. He is very, very talented, and most definitely

The fans love Debra

the kind of wrestler I want to manage."

It certainly helped that Jarrett won the U.S. Heavyweight Championship belt. Queen Debra is, after all, the true dictionary-definition of a gold-digger. And she'll be the first to confirm that. Just look at her behavior following his defeat at the Clash.

"I've heard people say I am so conceited, well, I don't know if I would call it conceited; I'm just beautiful, personable and intelligent," Queen Debra said. "If, because I have those qualities, you want to call me conceited, go right ahead. I'm just very sure of myself; I know what I can accomplish and know that no one can stand in my way.

"Lord knows this sport needs a classy, beautiful woman ... and I'm glad to provide that. My daddy always taught me that in the business world, it's not how you play the game, just make sure you win. I think this sport should be thankful I am even in it."

Said Jarrett, "Debra McMichael has been a shining star since Day One in World Championship Wrestling. Also, she has been held back by her husband since Day One in WCW. That's natural, though, because the man always likes, wants to be out front. Sure, Steve was a superstar in the NFL, but he's a rookie in our profession ... and Queen Debra is now the All-Pro in wrestling from that family. Debra deserves the spotlight shining brightest on her; she is the success of that family."

The Queen Debra-Jarrett "strictly professional" alliance is perfect, not just because of their hair. Queen Debra will use Jarrett to get to the top and gain the experience she needs so desperately. At the same time, Jarrett will use her to maintain his status among the sport's elite.

"Queen Debra came in with "Mongo" and he didn't — and still doesn't — know anything about the sport. I am the one who can lead her to greatness. She's got the tools, the talent, the charisma, the looks," Jarrett said. "If she listens to me, there's no doubt she can go places in this profession."

What about Debra and Steve? Well, they still are husband-wife, living together in harmony harmony (harmony like the battling husband and wife lawyers in the movie 'Adam's Rib' starring Hepburn and Tracy) away from the sport in Austin, Texas. Jarrett, meanwhile, is quite content with his out-of-the-ring world in Nashville, Tenn.

"When I leave home, I am strictly going to the top because I plan to be the most powerful manager this sport has ever seen," Queen Debra said. "I love when people underestimate me. They look at the blonde hair and the beauty and think she can't do anything. Not so. I was the one who made Steve McMichael. I negotiated his NFL contracts. I negotiated all of his public relation appearances. I negotiated his television appearances. I also negotiated his WCW contract, and a lot of people don't realize that. If it wasn't for me, he wouldn't even be here today.

"I am the most underrated manager in wrestling. But that's OK with me, because I love to prove everyone wrong. Years from now, people will say, 'Yeah, that Debra McMichael was the best manager ever, male or female."

Queen Debra confirmed she wants to add more wrestlers to her stable of talent. More championship-seeking talent, that is. If you're in the sport just for the love of the fight, forget it; Queen Debra isn't interested in you. She wants the gold-driven fighters, that's it.

"I am in this sport to make a lot of money, for no other reason," Queen Debra said. "The way I look at it is, you have to create champions to make money. So that's what I'm going to do. Champions make the money.

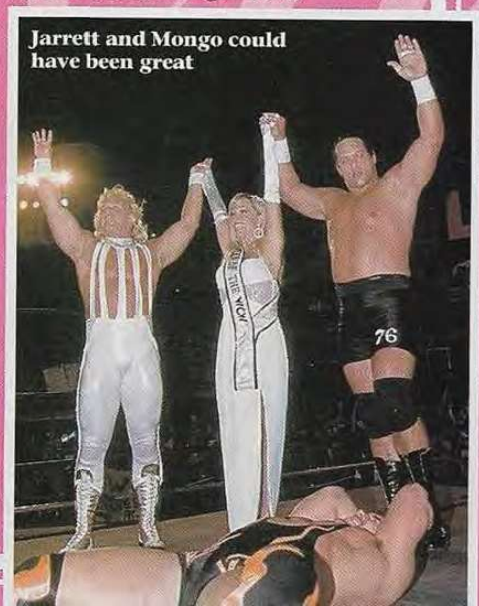
"You might find it hard to believe, even my close friends are very surprised when they learn this, but, I do my homework for wrestling. Specifically, I watch a lot of video tapes of past matches. I want to learn the moves, the techniques, the strategies ... and the people who do them the best. My daddy was a very wealthy land developer and he taught me everything I need to know about business, and I just look at wrestling as a big business venture. I now look at myself as the CEO of a major company. Do you see a CEO doing the dirty work of his company? No way. They are just the brains behind it, as I am. Personally, I refuse to get dirty. Now I might help out from time to time, if need be, perhaps with a briefcase, but nothing else."

She added: "When all is said and done, everyone will know Debra McMichael as the best manager in the history of pro wrestling."

Those are her words, but we have to agree. At least for right now.

Always the Queen of fashion

Mongo is lost without her


Jarrett and Mongo could have been great

Luger is hotter than ever

MY TIME IS NOW

The cynics will say, "Well, he held the title for only a few days." And those same cynics, the self-proclaimed "wrestling experts," have been picking apart Lex Luger's wrestling career for years. No matter what Luger has done over the past 12 plus seasons in this sport, there have been loud critics, quick to voice opposition. Be a good guy. Be a bad guy. Be a singles wrestler. Be a tag team competitor. Have a manager. Don't have a manager. Support WCW. Join The NWO. Return to the federation in the Northeast. Lex Luger has heard it all.

Now he's silencing everyone.

How can anyone criticize The Total Package after his performance August 4th, during the first three hour Monday Nitro, emanating from The Palace of Auburn Hills in suburban Detroit? Luger went one on one with "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan, and when fat lady sang, it was Luger's hand that was raised — and Luger's waist that then was the home for the World Heavyweight Championship belt.

Yo, critics we can't hear you now!

"I don't think Lex Luger has been judged fairly throughout my career. I've won a lot of titles, held a lot of championship belts, not just this recent (reign)," Luger said. (He lost the gold back to Hogan August 9th, at the Road Wild Pay-Per-View in Sturgis, S.D.)

"I'm past the point in my career of evaluating myself on the intrinsic elements, like how much money I can earn, what titles I can hold; that's secondary to me now. I'm enjoying what I'm doing, that's most important. Plus, I'm enjoying my relationship with the fans and the other WCW wrestlers who I work with and travel with. I'm having a real good time doing what I'm doing, in spite of the presence of The NWO. I've never enjoyed wrestling more.

"As far as living up to my potential as people have said about me in the past, I'll let other people judge that when my career is over. I'm not going to judge my career on how many titles I've won — or how many titles other people think I should have won because that's subjective. No one expects more out of Lex Luger than Lex Luger himself. If I ever become complacent or happy in what I've accomplished, then it's time to get out. I'm always striving to be the very best I can be. If that means the World Championship, so be it. If that means no title, so be it. I just want to reach the highest level I can compete at, physically and mentally. Then I'll be satisfied with my accomplishments in this sport, in spite of what the so-called 'wrestling experts' have to say."

Plus, let's face facts, if someone doesn't like you, they're always going to find a reason to not like you, no matter how much well you do. Your shirt isn't ironed properly; your hair doesn't look good; your gym shoes aren't white enough ... there's always a reason to gripe. Luger has probably heard all of those complaints and then some, and no matter what Luger has done in the past, it never seemed to be enough. Now, though, he doesn't care about them; he's stopped worrying about those critics.

"I am enjoying wrestling now more than I ever have during my career, and my personal life also is going well, thus, I think that makes me better in the ring," Luger said. "I've been training real well, with added cardiovascular, endurance-building and flexibility (exercises) which has really helped me in the ring.

"These next few years, I think are going to be the best years for Lex Luger."

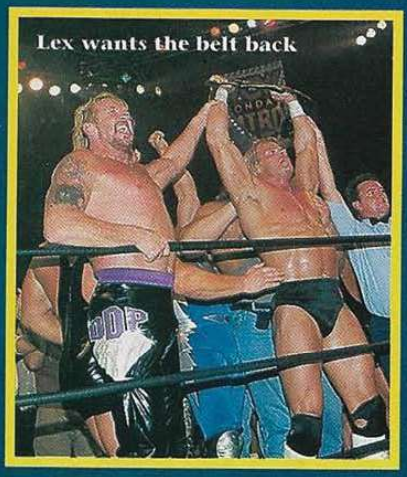
The Championship win meant everything ...

And that's not to say the past two have been anything to write off.

Let's jump back in time just about two years. WCW Monday Nitro made its debut from the Mall of America in suburban Minneapolis. There was no such thing as The New World Order. Hulk Hogan — not "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan as we now know him — was the

... and united WCW

He wants to end the Hogan myth


Lex wants the belt back

yellow and red champion. And Lex Luger was competing for another federation. Days after wrestling for "the other guys," Luger shocked the wrestling world when he walked into WCW. He was immediately accepted by Sting, his long-time business partner. "Macho Man" Randy Savage was the first to second guess Luger's loyalty. (Where's Savage's loyalty nowadays?) Over the months to come, Luger and Sting would form one of the sport's best tag teams and went on to become title-holding champions. Plus, Luger was, simultaneously, the World Television Champion, a belt he held for more than five months. And quite a sight it was seeing Luger prance to the ring with a pair of gold straps.

Luger's 1996 campaign, arguably, his best ever, earned him the 1996 Reader Award "Wrestler Of the Year," as voted by the readers of WCW Magazine.

Odds are, especially after August 4th, Luger will once again be a recipient of that award.

"No matter what happened at Road Wild, it was a great accomplishment, something I'm very proud of. It was something long coming — not for Lex Luger, but for WCW," said the 6-foot-5, 260-pound Luger. "Years from now, when I look back on my career, it will be a great accomplishment that no one can take away from me. Not Hogan nor anyone in The NWO.

"The NWO has been so strong, mainly because of their cohesiveness. My win in Detroit, hopefully, will show that, yes, there are strong kinks in their armor, even as strong as they have been to date.

"This win was for the fans, the WCW fans, those who have stuck by WCW through thick and thin, good times and bad."

Luger's post match, in-ring celebration was incredible. Sure, The Giant and Diamond Dallas Page were expected to congratulate their pal, Luger. But Alex Wright? Steve "Mongo" McMichael? Referee Mark Curtis?

WCW, for one night, for one moment, came together: good guys, bad guys, referees, front-office executives.

That unity needs to remain, and Luger is the ideal person to make sure it happens.

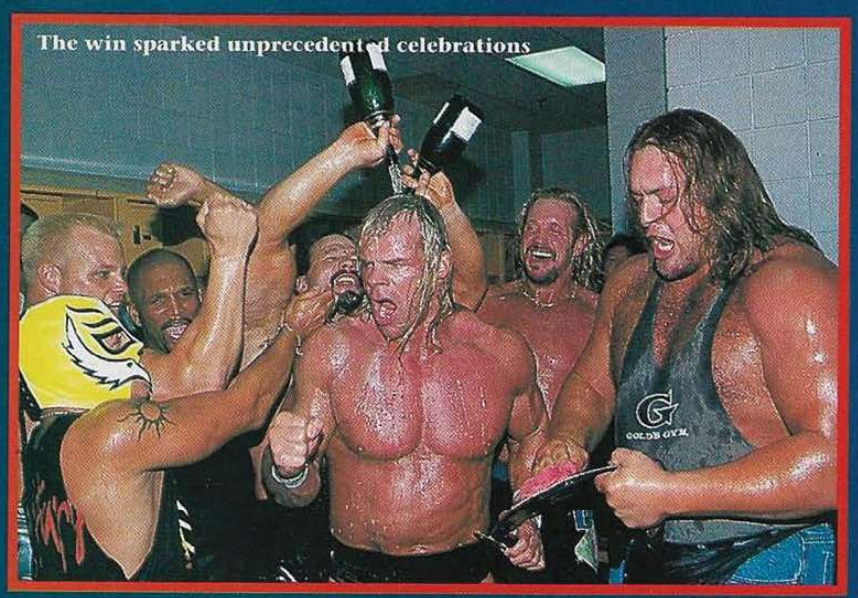
"That was the first positive sign I've seen from WCW, a sign of coming together and being a cohesive unit like The NWO," Luger said. "WCW as a whole, not Lex Luger, needs to use that win as a stepping stone in terms of what can happen if we are a cohesive unit. We need to use it as a learning experience, use it to overcome the gang-like mentality of The NWO. If WCW is cohesive, I think we can move forward and show what our strong points are because, yes, there are a lot of strong points to WCW, a lot of them.

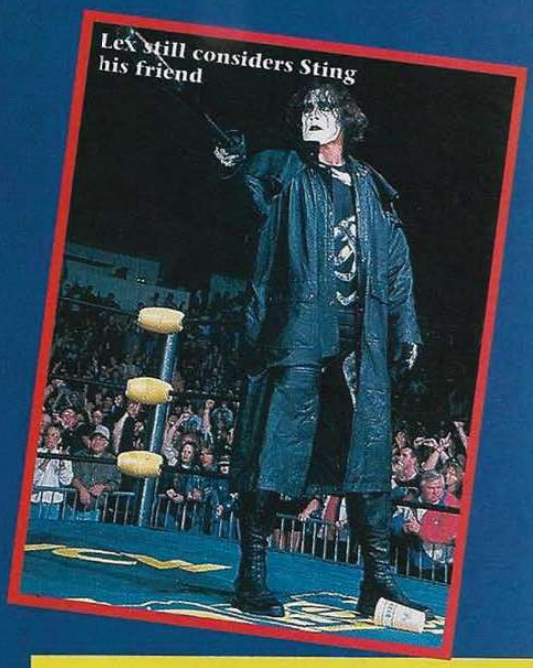
"I hope I shed some light on what WCW can accomplish."

Was it the highlight of his career?

"I would say so, particularly because of the past year long WCW-NWO feud and since (the win) occurred on Monday Nitro, the most watched show in the history of wrestling," Luger said. "To accomplish what I did in front of that many people, and the ensuing reaction I received from the WCW wrestlers and the crowd was a great feeling."

Now the critics had best be silent!!


The win sparked unprecedented celebrations


Lex still considers Sting his friend

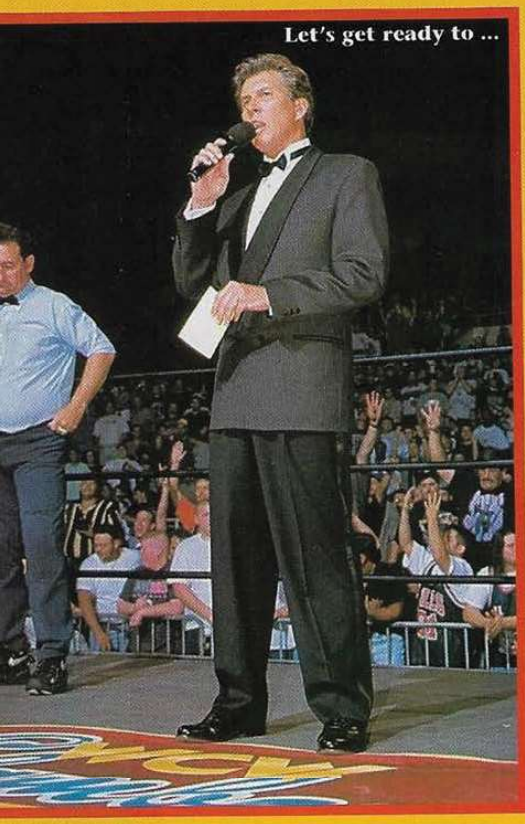
What gives with Sting? So many questions, so few answers. In fact, no answers, other than the fact we know he wants Hogan — and will get him! WCW Magazine attempted to contact Sting for comments about himself, naturally, and also his long-time friend Luger. We, too, were unsuccessful. Luger, though, had these comments to say about The Stinger:

"I always consider Sting a friend ... We don't have the close personal relationship we once had ... I'll always respect him as a wrestler, an individual who has accomplished a lot during his career ... He is a great competitor and I'll always hold him in that regard."

What about The NWO? Here's what Luger had to say:

"I never envisioned The NWO being what it is today. No way, not a chance. If I had a crystal ball, or if I was a fortune teller which I don't pretend to be, I never, ever would have guessed that. Definitely not. The NWO has gotten very strong, very powerful, and they've done so in a relative short period of time. I don't like their tactics, their image. I don't like much about them, but they do have a lot of talented wrestlers. No matter how cool they try to be, I don't think they would have gotten as strong as they are if they weren't talented.

"The NWO took the wrestling world by storm; it's hard to disagree with that statement. But, I hope you ask that same question a year from now. Then hopefully you'll say it is WCW taking the wrestling world by storm."


Let's get ready to ...

LET'S GET ready to RUMBLE

The lights go down. The crowd's excitement level goes up. The wrestlers are prepared for the forthcoming fight. It is the moment everyone has waited for all evening. Michael Buffer, a 52-year-old sports and entertainment announcer standing center ring and wearing a freshly pressed white tuxedo, grabs the microphone with the style, grace and class that only he can. We all know what happens next.

"Are you ready," he asks the screaming throng in his distinctive, deep voice. He follows that shortly thereafter with a five word phrase that has earned him worldwide recognition, not to mention millions of dollars.

"LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE!!!!"

Buffer is the World Heavyweight Champion of his profession and has been a WCW mainstay for about five years, ever since he was introduced to Eric Bischoff by a mutual friend in Los Angeles. The friend said Bischoff's business is excitement, and Buffer's job is to make it even more exciting. The rest, as they say, is history.

"The great thing about doing the events for WCW is that you have an audience that is easy to please in that, they come to see the superstars of WCW. They get a two, three, maybe four hour show of nothing but quality matches, one after another, with the biggest names, the biggest stars, the best athletes in the world of professional wrestling," said Buffer, a Philadelphia native now living in Los Angeles. "So for me it's like a dream come true in the sense that, when I go out there and do my thing, the fans are ready; they are ready to listen, ready to roar and ready to rumble."

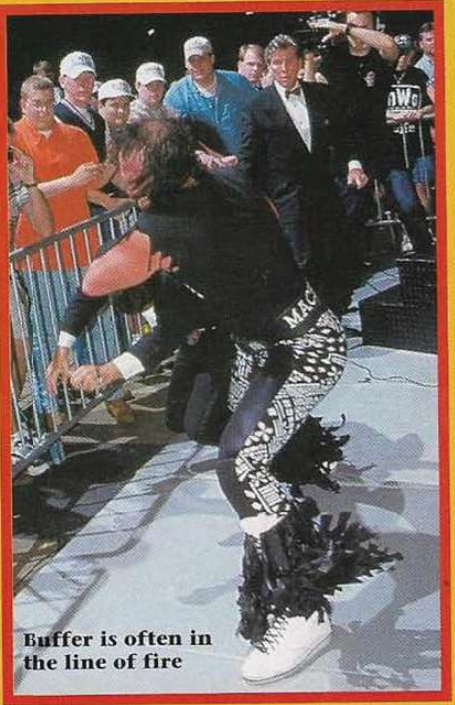
Buffer, a father of two (Matthew, 27, a musician; and Michael, 30, a journalist) travels more than 200,000 miles annually for his fabled pre-fight gig. He has appeared on The Late Show With David Letterman, The Tonight Show (four times), The Simpson's (as himself), half-a-dozen movies, the Academy Award Show, this years NBA Finals and was the master of ceremonies this year for the Pro Football Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

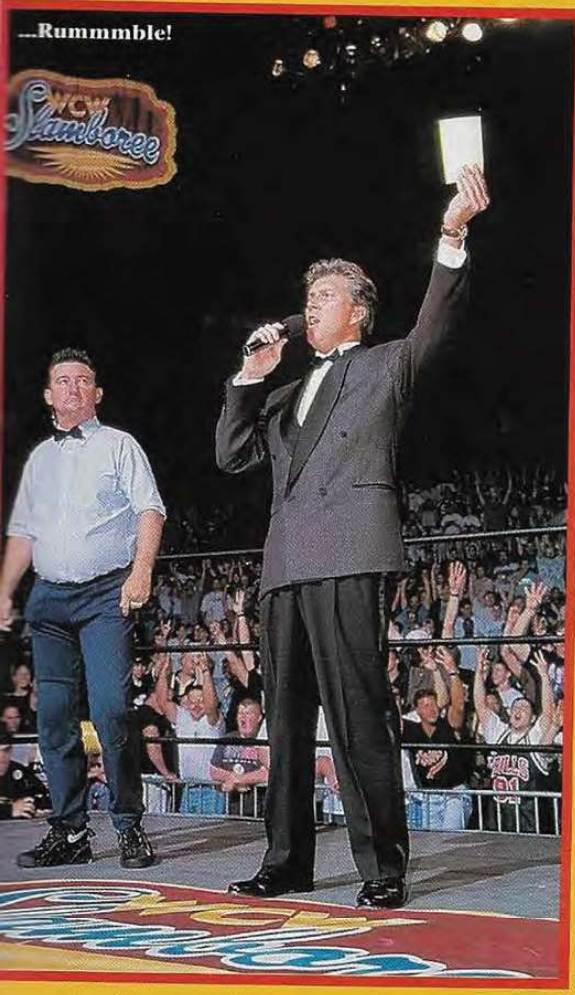
He is best known for his 15-years in boxing.

"When you go to a professional wrestling match, the whole night is a complete night of competition, one spectacular match after another," Buffer said. "In boxing, there are just too many fighters trying to build up their records fighting against poor opponents. Consequently, you'll get a Pay-Per-View boxing match that has four or five fights that are horrible. It'll be a quality fighter against a bum. Then you get to the main event, which is supposed to be a quality title fight, but rarely is.

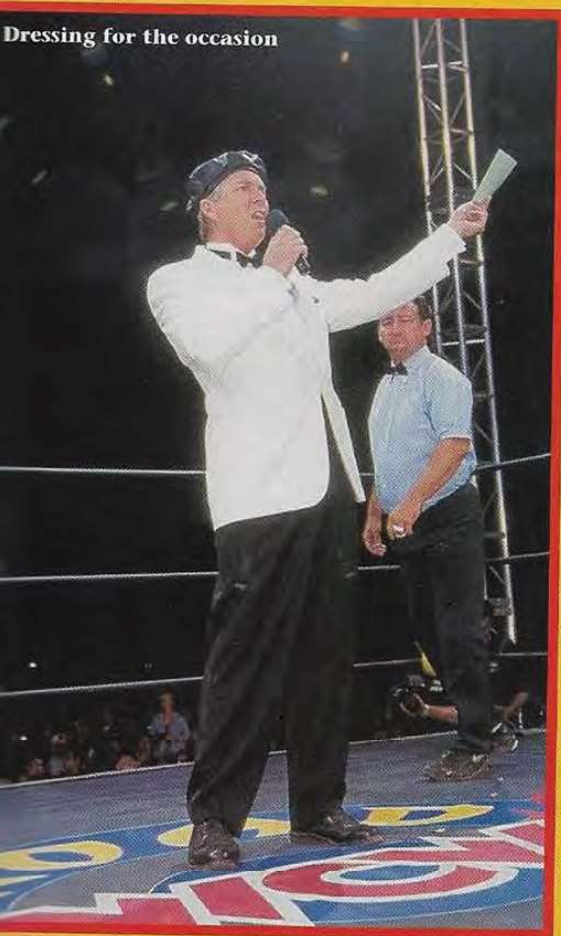
"In WCW, on the other hand, it's four hours of solid competition. Plus, the production, by that I mean what the fans see when the wrestlers come to the ring, is quality, exciting. The competition is always even, fair. These guys always go all out to win. You don't see that in boxing. And with boxing, you only really see the hoopla during entrances in Europe."

Buffer added: "Let's face it, all sports — baseball, basketball, football, hockey, wrestling and boxing — are there to entertain the fans who are paying to see it. We do our job when they go home and say, 'Man, that was


Buffer is often in the line of fire



...Rummmble!


Dressing for the occasion

a great night.' In boxing, I don't think you have that, at least not in America. In WCW, you do."

So where did your fabled tagline come from? We had to ask.

"Its origins are in boxing, back in about 1983," Buffer explained. "The fighters are there for a fight, the music is cranking, it's exciting. Then the ring announcer has to kill the crowd with his two and a half minute speech about commissions, doctors involved, etc. So, I wanted a hook similar to Gentlemen, Start Your Engines, which you hear at the Indianapolis 500. I wanted something that would tell the crowd that the action was about to begin."

He first tinkered with MAN YOUR BATTLE-STATIONS and FASTEN YOUR SEATBELTS. But neither flew.

Buffer now owns the registered trademark rights to "LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE!!"

"It's just a call to competition, a way to say, let the games begin!" said Buffer, who works at about 20 NFL games annually, along with NBA and NHL venues.

"In terms of wrestling events, it's really hard to say which is the loudest arena because the fans are great everywhere. When we do the smaller buildings, and by that I mean around 8,000 people, they sometimes make up for their lack of numbers with the strength of their lung power." His favorite spots include Daytona Beach, Orlando, Las Vegas and the South ("because of their hospitality and the fan base").

"When I come down that ramp, it kind of blows me away that they spot me, recognize me and know that if I'm coming out that it's something they are going to enjoy," he said.

Unless, of course, it's the United Center in downtown Chicago, the home of the World Champion Chicago Bulls — and during the post-season you aided the Utah Jazz. Buffer was booed like a member of the New World Order, and the locals chanted Utah Sucks! Utah Sucks!

Here are a few facts about Michael Buffer:

FAVORITE WRESTLER: RIC FLAIR

"I've been doing this for over four years and everywhere you go, when Ric makes his entrance, it's incredible. His work, his moves, everything he does is very special. Ric Flair is someone I've watched over the years. He is the epitome of a professional wrestler. He works so hard, has such great confidence and charisma."

ON "HOLLYWOOD" HULK HOGAN:

"He is a legend of two decades, known to everyone in the world."

WRESTLERS HE DOESN'T LIKE:

"That's a good question, but I have to be fair with the answer; I can't name anyone. The same thing happens to me when I announce boxing: Two fighters have to fight each other and maybe I've known each for a long time. I respect each and maybe I even know their families. The same often is true for wrestling. When you see these guys battle for championships like they do, it's clear that no one works harder than professional wrestlers."

FAVORITE WRESTLING MATCH: HULK HOGAN VS. THE GIANT

(Halloween Havoc 1995)

"That was an unbelievable event and that night, The Giant became a star in this sport."

MOST EXCITING BOXING MATCH:

"When George Foreman became the World Heavyweight Champion at age 45 with a four-punch combination to beat Michael Moorer."

FAVORITE FIGHT:

Iran Barkley vs. Roberto Duran, 1989.

RE-IGNITED

Can Jacquelyn spark the Heat?

A few months ago, Harlem Heat played the "race card" in hopes of receiving a shot at the World Tag Team Championship belts. It didn't work. So, they're going back to their street-fighting, @#$-kicking ways of a few years ago. That should work. Otherwise, they're going to have to use a little Muhammad Ali strategy: Pull out a megaphone and, at 3 a.m., go to the home of Scott Hall, Kevin Nash or J.J. Dillon, Chairman of the WCW Executive Committee and the man who decides the No. 1 contender to each championship belt, and shout out their wishes, much like Ali did (to Sonny Liston) in 1960. Something's gotta work.

Championship Reign No. 8 is all the Heat have in mind.

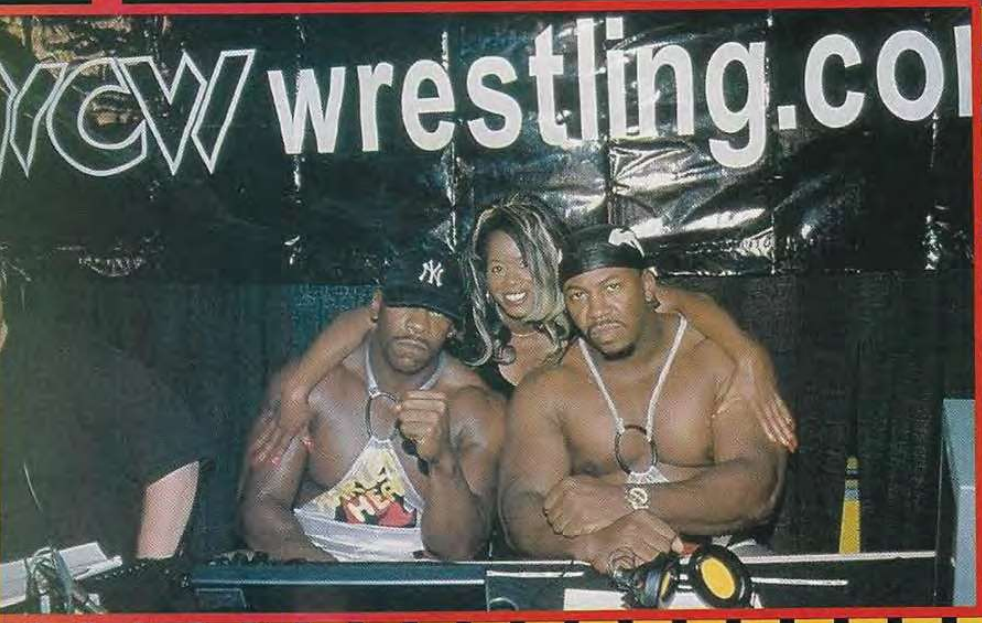
"We do plan on getting a title shot some time in the near-future ... it probably will be when Hall and Nash run out of gas and quit running from us. Hopefully that will come before the year 2000," said Booker T., who at 6-foot-3 is the smaller Heat (by two inches to Stevie Ray). "The Outsiders need to be men; stand up and step up to the plate, like my daddy said a long time ago."

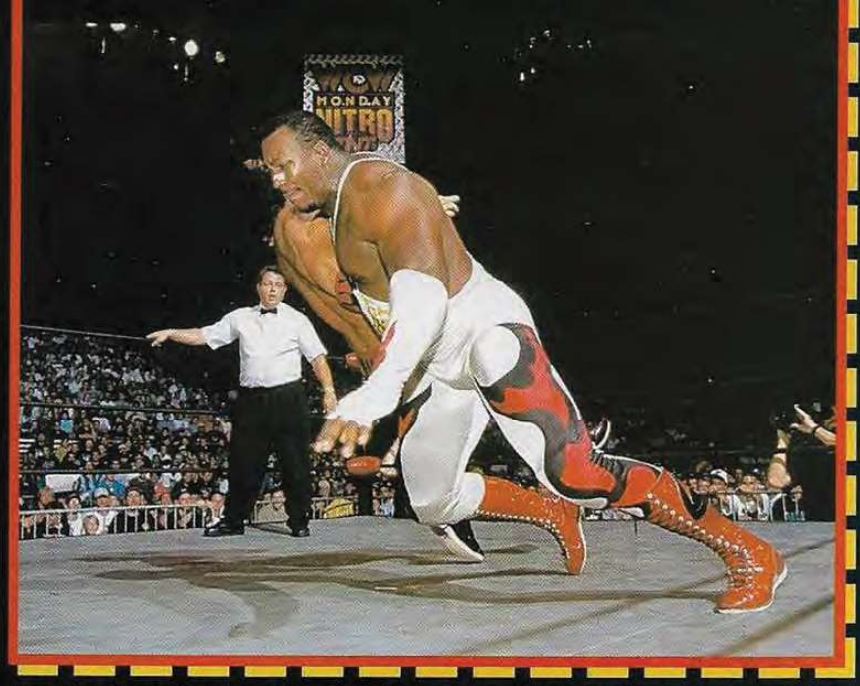
Team Harlem Heat, as it is now known, has a new focus, a new drive. Their goal is still the same, but their guiding force is new. And, some will add, improved. Sister Sherri is gone. Jacquelyn is in. That spells t-r-o-u-b-l-e for all opposing tag teams. From High Voltage to Public Enemy to The Faces of Fear to, of course, The Outsiders. Booker T., and Stevie Ray want the gold now more than ever before, and Jackie promises to lead them back to glory.

"Jackie is like the missing piece of the puzzle. She's like the sugar in a cake, something that was missing in the past," Stevie Ray said. "And with Jackie watching our backs, we are going to make up a whole lot of dishes that, I promise you, a lot of guys in WCW will choke on.

"Jackie is as tough as we are. We are raw-dog, from the street, and so is she. By any means necessary, Malcolm X said in 1962, and we will do whatever we have to do to win. That's why she stands in our corner. She will do whatever she has to do to help us win matches. That's our goal, why she's here."

Was Harlem Heat complacent under the guidance of Sister Sherri? Perhaps. Or maybe Sherri had just become content with seven title reigns. Booker T. and Stevie Ray have established themselves as the premiere tag team of the 1990s. There are, though, a few years remaining in the decade, so Team Harlem Heat needs this kick in the tail that Jackie will provide. Jackie is





Rambo in a dress. She won't accept mediocrity. Just ask Kevin Sullivan, who she whacked over the head with a wooden chair when she wasn't pleased with his performance at Bash at the Beach.

"With no disrespect to Sherri, our flame was kind of dying out. We didn't have any fire under us," Booker T. said. "My brother and I plan on going down in history as the greatest pure tag team there ever was in the history of the sport. Jackie is helping us reach that goal, re-focusing on re-claiming what is rightfully ours: The World Championship Wrestling Tag Team titles."

Said Stevie Ray, "Jackie is not there to jump into our matches and actually help us win matches because me and my brother feel like we can do that on our own. Jackie's responsibility is, as they say on the street, to watch our backs and just be there for us if anything happens. And we do know that, if anything happens, Jackie will jump in on our behalf. Jackie is a woman who does things her own way."

Despite the strong start as a family (a win over Vicious and Delicious) at the Road Wild Pay-Per-View, time will be a key. Can the unit stay as strong as it started? What will happen after a few losses? Will inner-tension rise? Will the fire be long-lasting? Will this be a gravy-and-rice team, or oil-and-water?

"We lost the belts at Halloween Havoc '96 in Las Vegas, and we have yet to receive a Return Match," Booker T. said. "Jackie is going to help change that. I'm not saying she has ties with the WCW Executive Committee. In fact, it's anything but that. It's very hard for anyone on Team Harlem Heat to have a good relationship with the WCW Championship Committee, that bunch of suits. Jackie is not here to go into the headquarters of WCW at CNN Center and deal with J.J. Dillon, because that's like talking to a stone-wall; he will get nothing done for you.

"We just want what is rightfully ours: A shot at the gold."

Added Stevie Ray, "There's only two reasons we don't get a return title match: Either they're scared of us or they're scared of us.

"We ain't scared of anyone. We ain't hiding from anyone. We ain't running from anyone. We ain't going anywhere until at least the year 2000. We know that sometime here in the near-future we will be the Champions; there's just no doubt in my mind, none whatsoever."

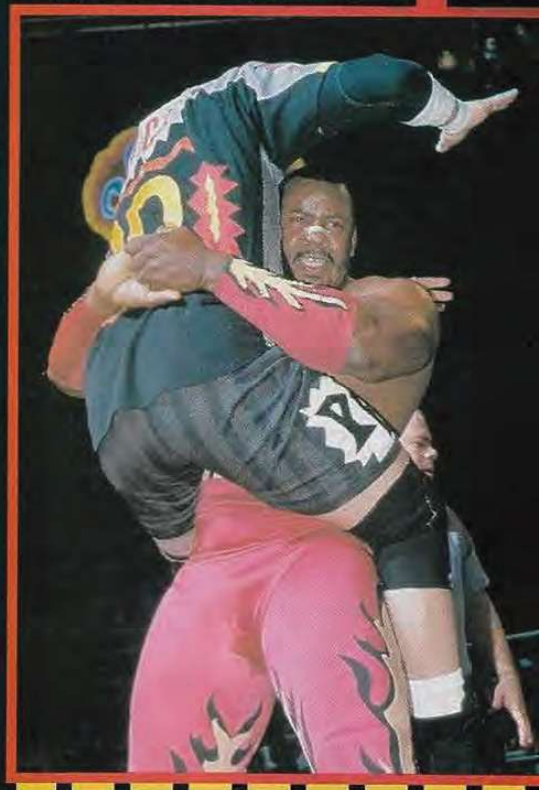
Team Harlem Heat is the 1997 edition of Three The Hard Way: OGB, Harlem Heat. They're not the "good guys" in the true definition of the term, but, there are faithful Heat fans, everywhere they go.

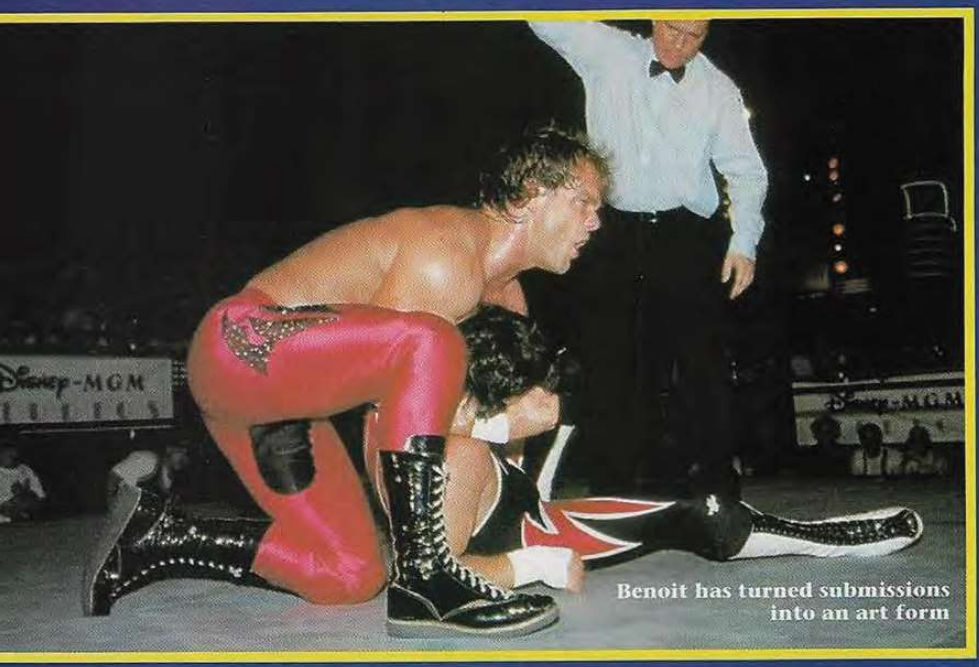
"You can best believe that the fans are going to be loving to see the Harlem Heat or they're going to be loving to hate to see the Harlem Heat," Booker T. said. "The fans want to see us. We are The Peoples' Champions. We just want WCW to take off the blindfolds and see the true, true talent that exists in Team Harlem Heat."

Who are the brothers when they leave the ring? What do they do in their free time? Any hobbies, side-interests? We wanted to know, if only because so many fans are intrigued by this powerful pair. So we asked:

"When I leave the ring, I don't really like to talk about my personal life, because that is my personal life," Booker T. said. "Plus, I'm so sick and tired of the white-collar crowd. Away from wrestling, I just like to relax. I have a 13-year-old son and a wife. That's enough info for you."

Stevie Ray refused comment, although we know he's an avid NASCAR aficionado, especially favoring Dale Earnhardt. He simply scowled at us, as usual.





Benoit has turned submissions into an art form

THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN WRESTLING

Chris Benoit is a man of few words. He truly lets his actions speak louder than his words, probably more than anyone in the sport. Interviews with Benoit rarely last long and his answers are often only a sentence or two. He's clear and concise with his words. He's direct to the point of being rude. Benoit is a straight-shooter. He tells it like it is, at least how he sees things, regardless of the outcome or ramifications. After all, Benoit can back up his words as well as anyone. If you've got a beef with Benoit, bring it to him face to face; he'll explain his rationale. If you want to cheap-shot him, perhaps from behind, you better make it a good attack, because he won't give up. Surrender isn't in Benoit's dictionary.

Just ask Kevin Sullivan. Or Meng. Or The Barbarian. Or "Mouth Of The South" Jimmy Hart.

If you can find Sullivan, that is.

Benoit single-handedly ran Sullivan out of the sport, winning a Career Match over "The Taskmaster" this past summer.

"It wasn't a wish of mine to end Sullivan's career; it was more a goal of mine," Benoit said. "I had to tap deep into myself, into a lot of unchartered territory to stop him. It was the biggest feud I have had of my career so far; that's why I'm happy it's over, why I'm happy he's gone from the sport.

"Sullivan had the experience on me, and also the whole Dungeon of Doom backing him up. And, because of the years he's put in to this sport, he has a lot more stroke than I do. It took a lot to beat him. Everything I had. But I did; that's satisfying."

The Benoit-Sullivan final fling, set at the Bash at the Beach Pay-Per-View from Daytona Beach, Fla., was, like all other Benoit-Sullivan fights, violent. Scientific moves went out the door the moment the bell rang. This was simply a street fight. The fight definitely lived up to its billing, "Last Man Standing Wins".

Sullivan's manager, Jacquelyn, was, ironically, the key player in this war to settle the score. She smacked a wooden chair over Sullivan's head, KO-ing the demented Sullivan. The pin was elementary at that point.

"It was him or I, not both of us in this sport," Benoit said. "We battled for over a year and just got fed up with one another. Sullivan and his Dungeon repeatedly ambushed me ... so often, in fact, that I needed eyes in the back of my head at all times to make sure no one was behind me, ready to attack.

"I have no regrets about the Career Match. None whatsoever. Then again, I never look back."

But what if Sullivan extended his hand in friendship, or maybe offered an allegiance. Can you picture Sullivan and Benoit actually fighting together against a common? Stranger things have happened in our sport. But is this too far out there?

"It took everything I had to beat Sullivan. It drained me mentally, emotionally, physically. But, I also gained mentally, emotionally and physically. Plus, I gained a lot of confidence.

"I fear no man in the ring, and I think I proved that against Kevin Sullivan."

Getting to Sullivan meant going through Meng and The Barbarian, among others. It meant a lot of pain, a lot of torture, a lot of agony. Nothing was easy along the way. Nothing was fun. Benoit was, for

Along with Malenko, Benoit is wrestling's most schooled technician

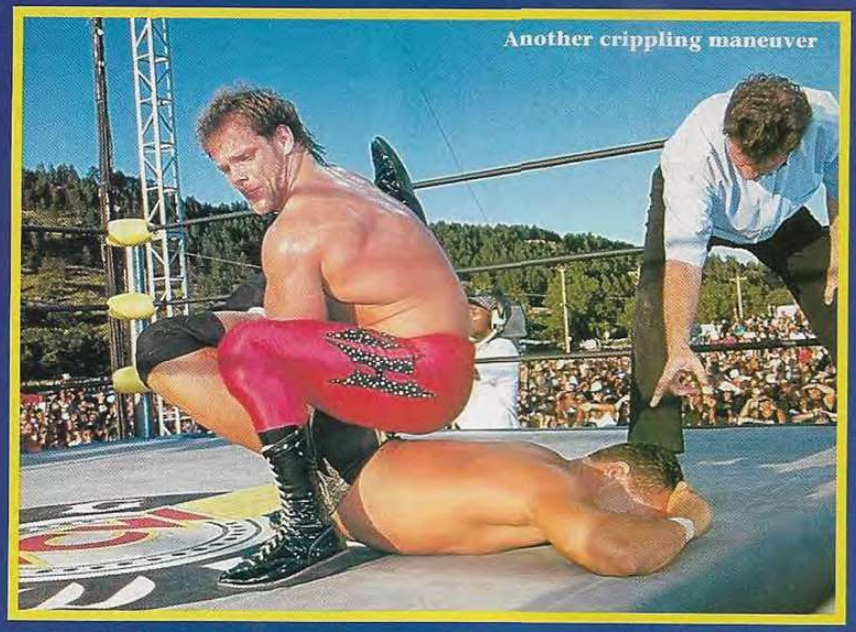
instance, thrown down a set of stairs at the United Center in Chicago; he went toe-to-toe at the Fleet Center in Boston that was, at the very least, a great hockey fight. Also along the way, Benoit was thrown into walls and smashed into toilets. He suffered a few concussions during the Sullivan feud.

And, yes, Benoit insisted, it was all worth it.

"Life isn't about experiences and what happens to you, but rather, experiences and what you do with what happens to you," Benoit said. "I try to take everything that happens in my life and use it positively."

The Sullivan feud clearly established Benoit as one of the premiere "tough-guys" in wrestling. Bob Probert of the Chicago Blackhawks would be proud to have Benoit as a teammate ... maybe that's why Ric Flair associates himself with The Canadian Crippler.

"I love what I do, and do what I love. I put my heart and soul into it every time I step into the ring,"



Another crippling maneuver

Horsemen, but I don't know how they can make that comparison because the wrestling styles have changed so much.

"I respect all of the Horsemen of

in a perfect position for a title shot — and a title reign. He's got the confidence and the guts, now he needs the glory.

"I was so focused on this Sullivan

GEROUS

Benoit said. "I am still feeling the after-effects of the Sullivan feud, and probably will for months to come. Maybe longer."

With Sullivan out of the picture, Benoit has more time to direct his attention to the ailing Four Horsemen. Say what you want, but, this elite unit isn't what is once was. Ric Flair and Arn Anderson, the stalwarts, have been injured. Jeff Jarrett strutted in, then was unceremoniously booted. Then there's Curt Hennig. He's in, he's out, he's up, he's down. And then there are others who are rumored to be 4H-bound, like Dean Malenko.

Benoit and Steve "Mongo" McMichael have been the driving force, led by the former, of The Four Horsemen for months. So can they guide the Four Horsemen back to their glory of yesteryear? Benoit is the key.

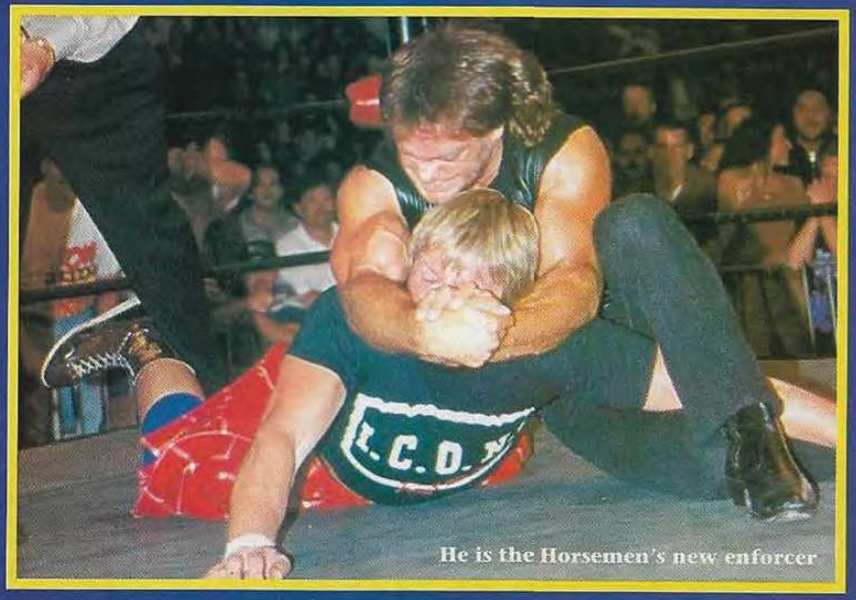
"I want The Horsemen to get back to full strength, be where we ought to be: With all of the gold in our grasp," he said. "I often hear fans talking about today's Horsemen in comparison to the original

the past and admire them for what they've done for wrestling, but we're the current Horsemen, the group that needs to make a name for itself on its own merits."

The 5-foot-10-inch Benoit, who tips the scales at 220-pounds, now is

feud that I didn't have time, or even much of an interest, to go for a championship belt," Benoit admitted. "Now I do."

And with Benoit's pitbull-like tenacity, they had better size the belt tonight.



He is the Horsemen's new enforcer

Reality Check

"YOU SEND US THE CHECK, WE'LL SEND YOU THE REALITY!"
Get all the latest news, catch up on the PPVs and read REAL interviews with your favourite wrestlers every month.
Save almost 50% off the newstand price!!
This is the REAL DEAL!
DON'T BE A MONKEY BOY ...

Subscribe today!

1995 Available issues 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-9-10

1996 Available issues 11-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22

1997 Available issues SPRING-23-24-25-26-27-28-29

TELEPHONE ORDERS
USA/CANADA: 1-800-WCW-8468 UK: 01622 688945

Renewal ☐ New subscription ☐
Send me 12 new issues of WCW Magazine. Starting with issue no: ..... I understand that the first issue of a brand new subscription will be the one currently on sale.
The cost will be:
$26.00 US funds only in the USA & Canada
£24.00 in the UK & N. Ireland
£40.00 in Europe (Pounds Sterling)
£48.00 in the Rest of the World (Pounds Sterling)

Method of payment
I enclose:-
(Checks payable to WCW Magazine)
Check ☐ Money Order ☐
MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ There are no billings
All transactions in US Dollars or Pounds Sterling
Card no.: .....
Expiry date : .....
Name on card : .....
Signature : .....

Name .....
Address .....
.....
.....
City .....
State / County .....
Zip / Post code .....

RING THE BELL on Archive.org

Please allow 8 weeks to receive first issue

Customer services: USA/CANADA: 1-315-452-5374
Tuesday - Thursday 10 am to 3 pm ET

Please send me the following back issues at the cost of $6.00 plus $5.95 per order US/Canada or £4.50 UK/NI or I enclose a payment of $ / £
For payment in full for issues

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐
9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐ 16 ☐
17 ☐ 18 ☐ 19 ☐ 20 ☐ 21 ☐ 22 ☐ 23 ☐
24 ☐ 25 ☐ 26 ☐ 27 ☐ 28 ☐ 29 ☐ 30 ☐
31 ☐ SI 97 ☐

Please send all orders and correspondence to:
Subscription Dept (mark envelope NEW or RENEWAL)
WCW Magazine, One CNN Center
Box no. 105366, Atlanta, GA 30348 - 5366, USA
In the UK/Europe/Rest of the World send to:
WCW Magazine, Howl Ltd,
21/23 Earl Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1PL, UK

PUTTING THE BANG IN NITRO

The girls energy is infectious

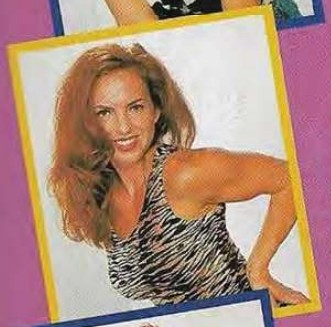
PROFILES:

KIMBERLY

Height: 5'10"
Hair Color: Brown
Eye Color: Brown
Birthdate: January 1st
Hobbies: Horseback Riding, Rollerblading, Motorcycle Riding, Reading
Other Jobs Held: Ad Executive, Public Relations Intern, Areobics Instructor
Personal Motto: "A thing worth doing is worth doing well."
What Most People Don't Know About Me: "I'm a lefty. I'm smarter than I look. I have a younger sister born on the same day as me."

A.C. JAZZ

Height: 5'4"
Hair Color: Blonde
Eye Color: Blue
Birthdate: April 1st
Hobbies: Dancing, Water-skiing, Snow-skiing, Rollerblading
Other Jobs Held: Former Atlanta Falcon Cheerleader
Personal Motto: "No dream is impossible"
What Most People Don't Know About Me Is: "How much I eat and love food."

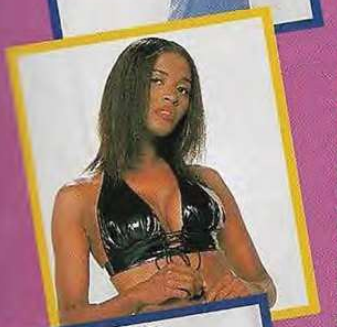


FIRE

Height: 5'3"
Hair Color: Auburn
Eye Color: Green
Birthdate: April 11
Hobbies: Running, Weightlifting, Interior Decorating, Watching Movies, Traveling, Gardening, Shopping
Other Jobs Held: Hotel Concierge, Runway Model, Horse Trainer, Fitness Trainer, Waitress
Personal Motto: "I don't live to work...I work to live!"
What Most People Don't Know About Me: "I am very domestic. I love to cook, work in the yard, work on my house and play with my animals."

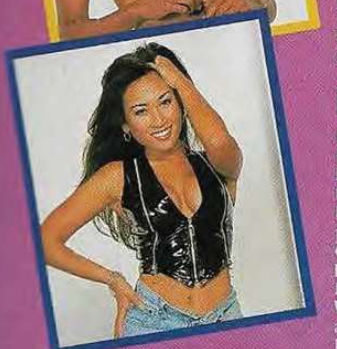
SPICE

Height: 5'4"
Hair Color: Cinnamon Blonde
Eye Color: Brown
Birthdate: May 29
Hobbies: Dancing, Traveling, Spending time with my animals and my husband, Teaching Aerobics
Other Jobs Held: Sales, Waitress/Bartending, Aerobics Instructor
Presonal Motto: "Always be thankful."
What Most People don't Know About Me: "That I will be a doctor of Chiropractic on December 14th, 1997."



TAYO

Height: 5'7"
Hair Color: Black
Eye Color: Brown
Birthdate: February 28
Hobbies: Weight Lifting, Hanging out with my little brother, Singing, Dancing, Acting, Modeling, Reading my bible
Other Jobs Held: James Brown Tour, Pebbles World Tour, Six Flags Over Georgia Show Productions, Hawks Dance Team
Personal Motto: "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."
What Most People Don't Know About Me: "I'm a Country/Western Recording Artist"



CHAE:

Height: 5'4"
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Black
Birthdate: August 8
Hobbies: Horseback riding, snow-boarding, playing piano, rollerblading, and watersports
Other Jobs Held: Former Atlanta Falcons Cheerleader
Personal Motto: "Live healthy, love strong, laugh a lot."
What Most People Don't Know About Me: "I own an American Paint Cutting Horse and a Quarter Horse Barrel Racer. I just started taking golfing lessons."

The July 14th WCW Monday Nitro made wrestling history. Not because a major belt was lost or a huge feud ensued. No, July 14th marked the debut of the now familiar NITRO GIRLS. Lead by WCW's own Kimberly, these six young women wowed the crowd with their choreographed ring show and their high energy dance intros. The show had more excitement, more pizzazz, because these new "cheerleaders", if you will, made their presence known in no uncertain terms. A.C. Jazz, Spice, Fire, Chae, Tayo and Kimberly burst onto the scene and gave Nitro a jazzy atmosphere. We recently caught up with Kimberly who had spearheaded the campaign to bring the Nitro Girls to WCW for nearly a year and she was every bit as enthusiastic about the Nitro Girls as they seemed to be on screen. "It's going to be so much fun for the crowd. That's what we're about," she says about the goal of the Nitro girls. "We're all about having fun and making this whole show a party."

How did this whole concept come about, we wondered? "Well I come from a fitness contest type background and wanted to put together something like the Lakers Girls or the Fly Girls of wrestling for some time and finally I got the chance to do it, once Page freed me up from some of my managerial duties," Kim says. Indeed, we have been seeing less of Kim at ringside and more of her with the girls. She explains that the whole atmosphere was getting to be too dangerous and she wanted to veer off and do something fun and exciting. "I still manage Page behind the scenes; I take care of all his business affairs, but the Nitro Girls was a product of me having a chance to have a lot to do with the show without having to be involved with the wrestlers per se."

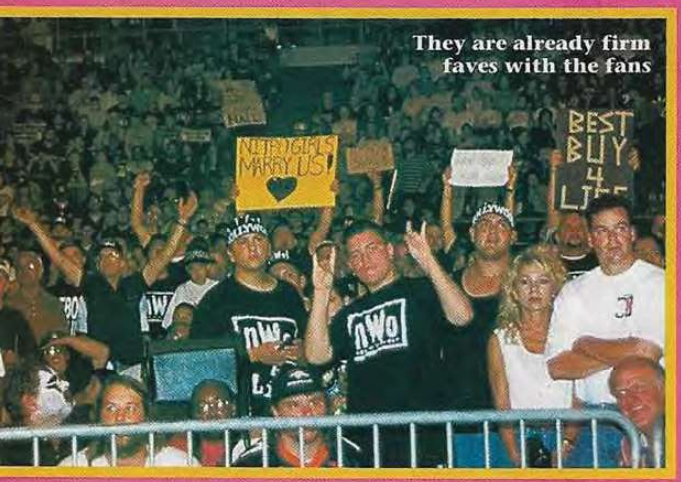
The ring scene can get very dangerous and cruel as witnessed when "Macho Man" Randy Savage and Elizabeth spray-painted Kimberly with the NWO insignia and when newcomer Curt Hennig called her an insulting name in the heat of a battle with real life husband, Diamond Dallas Page.

Speaking of Hennig, Kim says, "People might think he is cool for calling me names but I don't want anything to do with those people. It just wasn't right to say those things about me. He doesn't know me or what I am about." That was about the time that she and Page put the brakes on her managing full time, allowing Kim to finally realize her dream of making Nitro "the most exciting show on television."

The reduction of her ring duties has given her the time to put together a tight knit group of women, varied in looks, backgrounds and experience, all bound together to give the Nitro viewing audience more bang for their buck. After hand picking the all Atlanta based team, Kim set up their first meeting on June 24th, only 2 weeks before their scheduled debut. How would six women - two former Atlanta Falcon cheerleaders, two dancers and two fitness enthusiasts - get it together in time for a live debut in only two weeks? We hand it to Kim for being the kind of leader who is a part of her group, always listening to input from her teammates and working hard to give the fans a professional debut. "I had five new pieces of choreography, music to pick and costumes to put together all in two weeks time," Kim says with a laugh. "These girls are all really dedicated to being great entertainers and being from such different

FIRE
CHAE
TAYO
VCV
magazine

NITRO Girls
SPICE
A.C. JAZZ
KIMBERLY



They are already firm faves with the fans

backgrounds, we all pull from each other's strengths." If you think two weeks to prepare for a major live television debut is pressure filled, imagine being on the road most of that time as Kim was! Kim and the girls somehow managed to get it all together and when Nitro opened with the Nitro Girls' first act, it looked as though they had been together for years, not days.

The team, and they are a team in every sense of the word, come up with all the creative ideas themselves. A.C. Jazz and Spice are the lead choreographers who come up with many of the moves and steps that make up the spots. Kim picks out the music, and Tayo, an experienced dancer, is on hand to help with the more intricate dance steps. Chae throws her ideas into the pot and you have a team that "works together like a well oiled machine. We do everything together," Kim explains. Each girl has her own style and that is reflected in the costumes you see weekly. "We are all a little offbeat, a little funky," Kim says. What you see, she points out, is a concerted effort between herself and her team.

The team has what looks like a pretty intense schedule: Tuesdays, they review their performances from Monday and critique each piece. Then, they rehearse for 2 - 3 hours at least twice a week and are ready to go on the air every Monday from wherever Nitro is aired. Kim uses her experience as a manager for Page to manage the travel schedules, music, costumes and flight schedules for the girls, a tough job for anyone, yet Kim seems to love what she is doing and promises that the Nitro Girls will continue to show us all new and innovative routines. "As time goes on, we're going to get better and better at what we do," she says. In fact, some more exciting news to come out of the formation of the Nitro Girls is the possibility that in the future, the Girls will be dancing to new, as yet unheard of recording artists from Time Warner. "We might be dancing to brand new music that no one has even heard on the radio yet," she tells us.

The plan is for the girls to eventually work up to performing during commercial breaks, giving the crowd something to enjoy while the show cuts away. "You'll have something cool to watch in the ring during the commercials when you are at Nitro Live," she says. And cool these girls are.

"We're about fun - sexy fun - but fun," says Kim. About the viewing audience's possible perception of the girls as "too sexy", she retorts, "We're not going to be doing things that your eleven year old kid can't watch. That's not what we're about. We're about fun and energy and making Nitro even more exciting than it already is."

Directly after their July 14th debut, the Internet was abuzz with talk of these "new girls on the scene." Now, only a couple months later, the Nitro Girls have become a much anticipated part of Nitro, adding an element of fun to sometimes intense shows. As for cyberspace, Kim says, "We want to gain a strong presence on the Internet, too. We're going to be doing a lot of photo shoots over the next few months and our pictures will be in the gallery of pictures on the WCW website (www.WCWwrestling.com) for people to download."

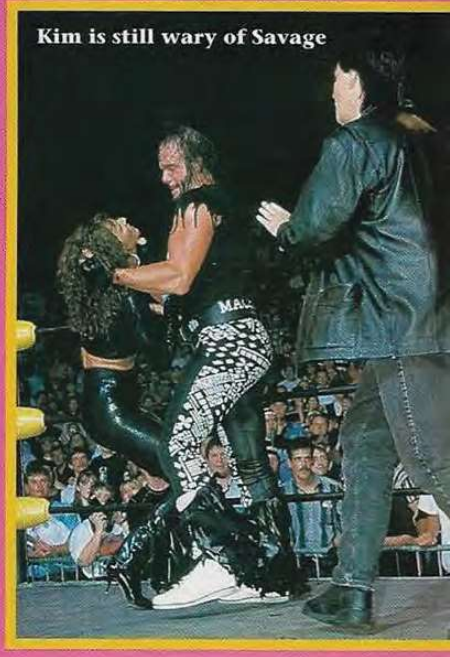
"Each girl looks totally different. I wanted as many different looks as possible so everyone can have their favorite. But they all have one thing in common - they're HOT!"

So hot in fact, that some merchandise is already being produced in the form of Nitro Girl T-shirts and posters. "I'm very fired up about it," She says.

But, amidst all this enthusiasm, doesn't Kim have some hesitation going out there, unprotected? After all, The NWO, Randy Savage and Liz and others have been known for their sneak attacks. We wondered if she is, in any way, frightened of an unprovoked attack from one of the wrestlers who is feuding with her husband. "I am genuinely afraid of Randy Savage when he walks out because he is so intense," she says. "He is one person who gets lost in the intensity of the moment, but as far as Liz goes, I'm not too worried about it, I can handle her on my own," she remarks. We are sure that DDP keeps a sharp eye out for her as well during the performances, although Alex Wright has been making unscheduled appearances, dancing with the girls as they come out on the ramp. "He's harmless," Kim says with a chuckle.

In this day and age when pro wrestling is appealing to more women than ever before, the Nitro Girls are on the scene not to make the women viewers feel threatened, but to show that women have a place in the usually male dominated wrestling world. "This is a breakthrough because women are finally doing something in wrestling - not to take away from the women wrestlers because they work very hard at what they do - but as a manager I always felt like I wasn't doing enough," she explains. "I wanted to do something more for the people than just stand by my man."

The girls are an integral part of the Nitro opening


Kim is still wary of Savage

The Nitro Girls have set Nitro apart from any other wrestling show. Do they have plans to perform on other WCW shows or Pay-Per-Views? "Not for now. We are the cheerleaders of Nitro, for the time being anyway," Kim says.

To really kick off the Nitro Girls' presence is the sweepstakes taking place on Nitro. Over the next few months, WCW will be collecting amateur footage of the fans' Nitro parties. These parties can take place in a home, a bar or anywhere where Nitro is on and people are gathering to watch. The WCW Executive Committee will be reviewing the tapes and will decide on a winner, who will get a satellite uplink to TNT's Nitro and the Nitro Girls will act as the hosts. They will provide all the food, drinks and entertainment to make the winner's Nitro party one to remember! Kim says this is a great way to get people involved in the show and to get the Nitro Girls out and about mingling with the fans. "We're going to throw a big old party for the winner and all their friends," she says. "And they get to be on live TV!"

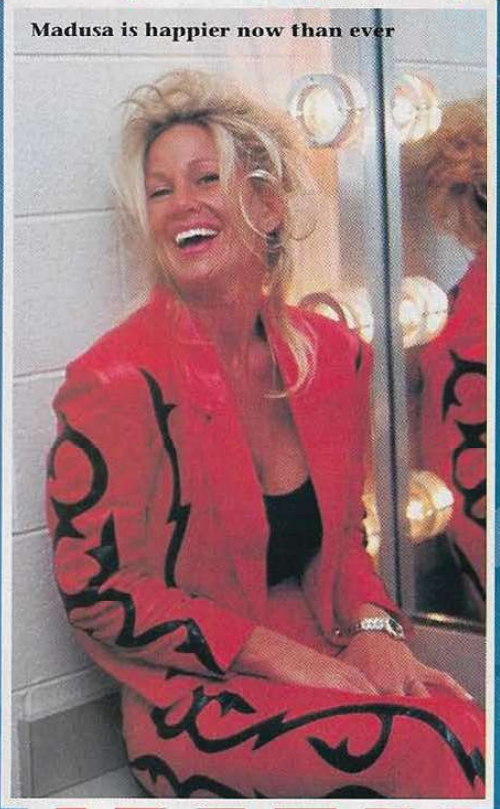
More information about the Nitro Party Sweepstakes will be announced on Monday Nitro so be listening for a chance to have the Nitro Girls host your party!

In the meantime, Kim wants to remind all the fans out there that the Nitro Girls are traveling to every Nitro and, "We all go to the gym together, appear at different restaurants and bars and generally hang out with the people in the Nitro towns." And, she warns with a laugh, "Be looking for us because trouble follows wherever we go!"

The WCW Hotline!
Where the big boys Call.
Get the Dirt
Direct!
DAILY UPDATE
Sunday: Bobby "The Brain" Heenan
Monday: Mike Tenay
Tuesday: Terry Taylor
Wednesday: Mark Madden
Thursday: Mike Tenay
Friday: Mark Madden
Saturday: "Mean" Gene Okerlund
PIN THE CHAMP
Have you got what it takes to go head to head with the superstars of WCW? Here's your chance to find out. Just call and brawl with the hottest interactive wrestling game in the world!
Children under 18 must obtain parental permission before calling.
Call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call from any kind of phone, digital or rotary.
Call costs $1.59 per minute
Average call length is 5 minutes.
1-900-909-9900
CANADIAN FANS CALL 1-900-451-5344, CALLS COST $1.99 PER MINUTE
Void where prohibited. Daily programming subject to change and availability. World Championship Wrestling, One CNN Center, Box 105366, Atlanta, GA 30348-5366

What a summer it was for Madusa! She lost a Retirement Match and found Mr. Right. Not in the same setting or evening, mind you.

WHAT NOW?


Madusa is happier now than ever

Madusa's whirlwind summer started at a restaurant-bar in Dayton, Ohio, following a Monday Nitro show at Hara Arena. She was relaxing with Debra McMichael and a few friends when they spotted a table of guys, including the hulking, 6-foot-6, 315-pound, muscle-packed Blackman.

"Oh my God; he's got to be a football player," Debra said.

"Oh my God; he's so cute," another starry-eyed girl said.

"Oh my God, he's a hunk ... I'm gonna make him mine," Madusa said. "I looked at Debra and the others and said, 'Sorry girls, he's already taken; he's mine."

Seconds later, the waitress delivered a drink to Madusa. "I thought it was from him," Madusa said. So, she went over to say "Thanks" and introduce her. But Blackman and his buds said they did not send it. "I felt like a real dork," Madusa said, smiling.

Still, she spoke with the group at Blackman's table, mainly Blackman, and, well, the evening ended with a ride around town on Blackman's motorcycle.

"If you want to be with someone for the rest of your life, I think you should know within the first-, second- or maybe third-month you're together with that person. Otherwise you're wasting a lot of time.

"Well, it was one of those moments in Dayton ... you know, one of those moments when you just know. I knew, after the first hour I was with him, that he was the man I wanted to spend the rest of my life with. And, as it turns out, that's how it will be."

Blackman, on July 26, at an ritzy Cincinnati restaurant, dropped to one knee and popped The Big Question. Madusa was completely shocked.

"I broke down and started crying right then and there. It was great," she said.

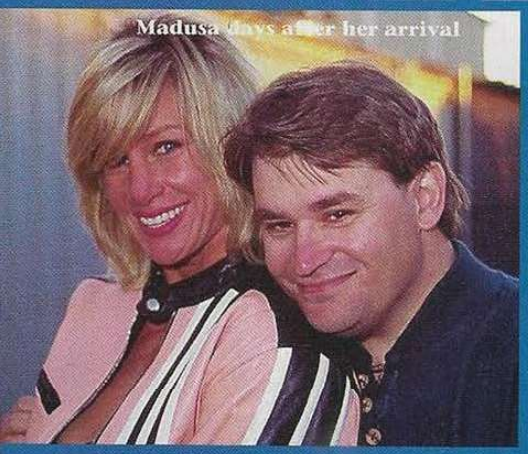
Blackman then blitzed her with white roses, her favorite. Dozens were delivered, one after another.

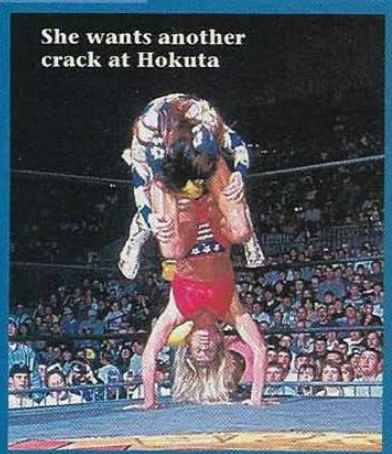
"As the old saying goes, I think everything happens for a reason. Well, I guess there was a reason I was at that restaurant-bar at that exact moment," Madusa said. "Our relationship first grew by phone; I think that's why it's so strong now.

"Kenneth is the most caring, giving, loving man I have ever met. He doesn't pre-judge me. He doesn't ask that I change my life for him. He just wants me happy as a person."

Blackman, who turns 25 later this year, is an offensive guard/tackle for the Cincinnati Bengals. He played his college football at Illinois, following a three-sport (football, basketball, track and field) prep career at Wylie High School in Abilene, Texas.

Madusa is no longer an active wrestler for WCW, forced out after losing to reigning WCW Women's World Heavyweight Champion Akira Hokuto — with help from her sneaky sidekick Sonny Onoo — at The Great American Bash in Moline, Ill. But Kenneth Blackman is there to console Madusa ... for the rest of their lives together.


Madusa days after her arrival


She wants another crack at Hokuta

She still loves her bike

"I know just a little about wrestling. I've only watched it a few times," Blackman said. "All I know about Madusa as a wrestler is what she's told me ... and obviously all of that is good."

Blackman added: "I think our personalities are almost exactly the same; that's why we get along so well. We understand each other very well."

Although her personal life is now set, Madusa's professional future is as clear as, uh, mud. She's spent the past 10-plus years grappling for gold around the world. But not anymore. Madusa's wrestling boots have been retired for good, forced into the closet by her own words — "I will do anything if I get one more shot at Hokuto" — and Onoo's quick-thinking. "Anything?" he asked that Monday Nitro, with his traditional sly smirk.

"I went through with a Retirement Match because I'm a woman of my word. I said I would retire, so I will retire.

"But who's to say there won't be one more match?" Madusa smiled at the thought.

"How many guys have said they are going to retire if they lose a Retirement Match? And how many have found a loop-hole to get back in? A lot," she said. "I will be the first (Retirement Match victim) not to want back in."

...ds a fear when she looks back.

The injury is healed

Madusa's active wrestling career is over; that's a fact. Madusa wants one more Onoo-free shot at Hokuto; that too is a fact. Madusa knows it probably will never happen; that's just the way things work in wrestling.

If Onoo has to be around for any future matches, Madusa said he should simply be, "suspended in a cage above the ring," then he cannot interfere. One more match: Win or lose, then she's done.

Perhaps just to show Blackman what she DID for a living.

"How do I feel about my career being behind me? Complete. I'm entering a new dimension, a new part of my life," Madusa said. "Am I upset? No, not really.

"Everyone who saw the match at The Great American Bash knows that I got a bum deal. I know that I gave it my best, my all. That's all I can say. Akira Hokuto is good, a damn-good wrestler. If that was my last match, at least I had it with one of the best."

Madusa added, "A lot of people ask me about the fact I never won the WCW Women's Heavyweight Championship belt after returning

Madusa is enjoying her spare time

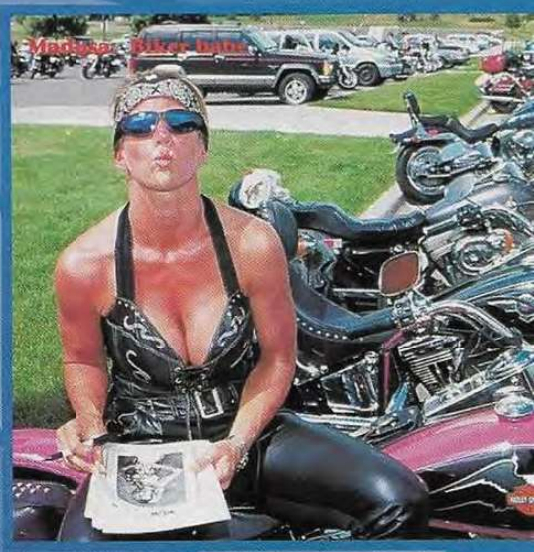
(in late-1995), but that's OK with me. I'm not upset with that fact. I never needed to be a champion to know in my heart that I was a champion."

How true. Madusa truly is a first-ballot Hall of Fame. She was a leader in women's wrestling, an icon, er, "iconette," in the sport. Madusa opened doors in women's wrestling for hundreds of others. She made it possible for women to have a job and a family in this sport

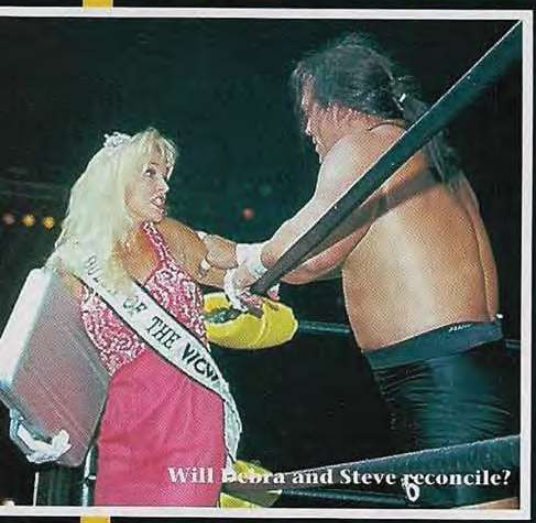
"Every time I stepped into the ring, there always was something exciting, something different. I don't really think there was one specific highlight," she said. "I just know you never could under-estimate me in the ring.

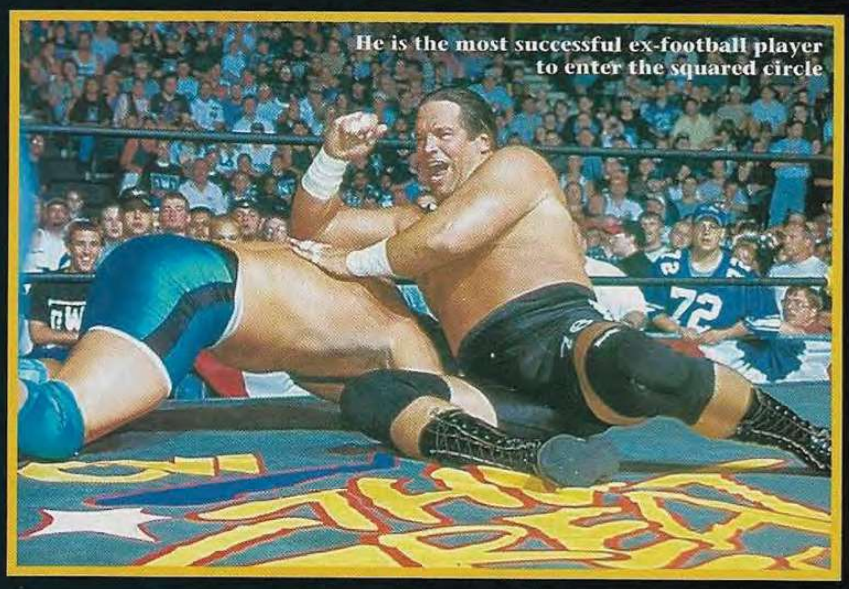
"There were, though, several memorable moments. Such as: when I won my first World title, over in Tokyo, Japan against Chigusa Nagayo in January 1989; second, when I went 60-minutes at the Yokohama Arena against Lioness Asuka.

I came in a champion, and I'm going to leave as a champion, one way or another."



TOUCH


Will Debra and Steve reconcile?


He is the most successful ex-football player to enter the squared circle

McMichael Strikes GOLD

When Steve "Mongo" McMichael joined WCW's inaugural Monday Nitro broadcast crew along with Eric Bischoff and Bobby "The Brain" Heenan, his critics were loud and wide-spread, even in Chicago, where the ex-Bear can do no wrong. His wrestling broadcasting was, they said, atrocious, to say the least. He simply had a few adjectives that he constantly repeated, nothing more. And his banter with "The Brain" wasn't even funny, they noted.

The Jarrett feud will rumble on

In retrospect, McMichael probably was over his head with the assignment. Sure, he was a lifetime wrestling fan and had had brief broadcasting experience in Chicago and Green Bay during his NFL career, but this was a different animal. Way different.

During the summer of '96, McMichael jumped into the ring, another new career for the former football great. The critics continued their abuse. As summer turned to fall in '97, McMichael is still battling the high tides of World Championship Wrestling. He is the United States Champion. So where are those critics? Gone. On to a new subject.

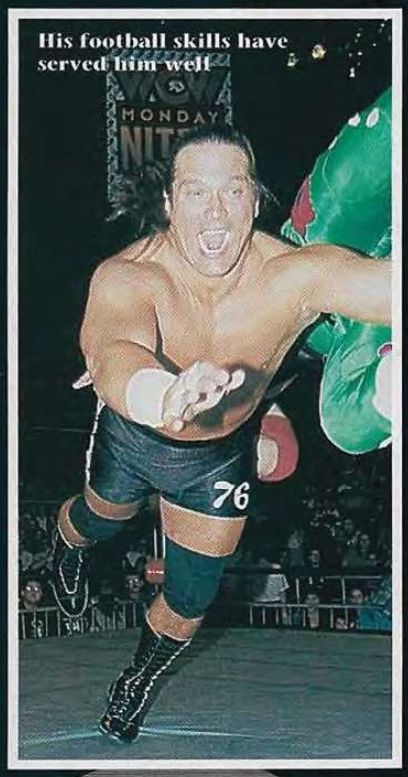
McMichael has survived, and definitely shown he belongs in the human game of chess. McMichael is, arguably, the Most Improved Wrestler of the past year. McMichael has done, and continues to do, things that take others years to perfect. And let's not forget, McMichael is a relative rookie in the sport, in an incredibly-tough, spotlight-filled role: As a member of The Four Horsemen, pro wrestling's elite evil force.

"I'm still learning. I know that," McMichael said. "I've been wrestling for just over a year and I love it. I don't have any plans of leaving. I'm starting to get the feel of this; it's starting to become a passion of mine. I want to succeed in this and I think I can be real good at it.

"I didn't expect the wrestlers to be as tough as they are, I'll admit that. These guys truly are wolves among sheep, and I'm very proud to be part of an elite bunch: The pro wrestlers fraternity.

"The intelligence of these guys, man, it's incredible. People need to understand that this sport isn't just

DOWN


His football skills have served him well

about being a brute. You also have to be intelligent. There's a clear game plan that goes into wrestling. And if you go into the ring without a game plan, you're gonna get brutalized and, of course, beat.

"Wrestling has far exceeded my expectations from when I got into it."

McMichael was a 15 year NFL superstar. He truly is among icons in Chicago Bear history. (Ironically, his career also included a late stint with Chicago's arch-rival: the Green Bay Packers.) He was an All-Pro on repeated occasions and a Super Bowl winner after the 1985 season.

"It's the same adrenaline rush, when they play that Four Horsemen ring entrance music, as that which I got when the game-silks, (uniforms) were, on game day, about to be introduced," McMichael said. "At no time during my football career did I get tired from playing four quarters, and I was 20-pounds heavier than I am now. I am now in better aerobic shape, and wrestling in a 15 minute match is really a gasser. I've been more tired doing this than at any time in my NFL career. Plus, I was never even dazed while playing in a football game, but these guys have actually gotten me down, then gotten the 1-2-3 (pin)."

And when's the last time you saw a Haliburton briefcase used on, say, fourth and goal?

"When you get hit in the head so hard that it dents a metal briefcase, that hurts," McMichael said. "Jeff (Jarrett) once hit me with the hinges of the briefcase so hard that it split open my head and needed 14 stitches at an Atlanta emergency room.

"No linemen ever did anything like that to me."

McMichael's top NFL foes were center Dwight Stephenson (1980-87, Miami), guard Dennis Harrah (1975-87, Los Angeles Rams) and tackle Jumbo Elliott (1988-95, New York Giants). Yet none could hack it in WCW, McMichael said

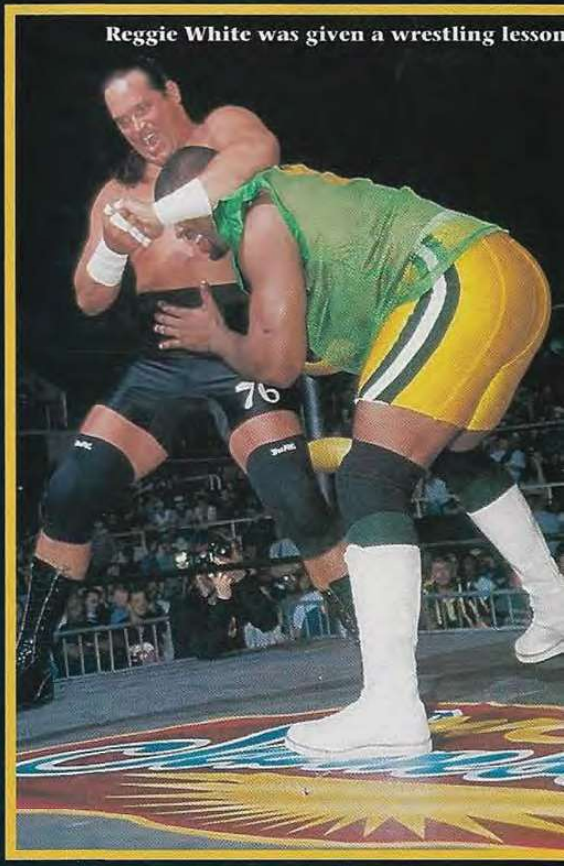
"Those three guys would find it real hard to compete in WCW. In fact, I don't know too many offensive linemen at all — probably none at all — who could come in here and compete at the athletic level, the intelligence level and the toughness level that it takes to be a success," he said.

Despite McMichael's rapid success in the sport, it hasn't been quick enough for his wife, Queen Debra. The spoiled beauty has actually dumped McMichael for his arch-rival, Jarrett. The blondes seem a perfect pair, yet all parties involved insist it's just a "business decision" on her part.

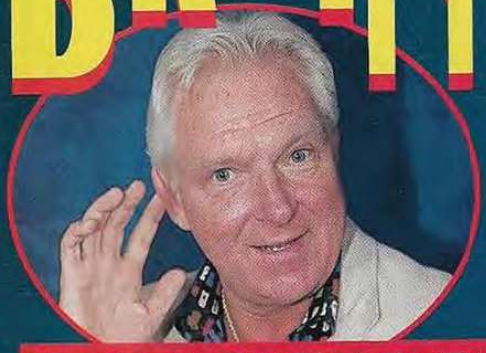
"She's short-changing me and I hope it doesn't come back to bite her in the butt. And, yes, that's what I have planned for her," McMichael said. "As for Jeff Jarrett, he's just another speedbump in the middle of the road. You can't go full-speed over him, but you can slow down and go over him one tire at a time. And ultimately you're all the way over him."

McMichael went one on one against Jarrett at the Aug. 21, Clash of the Champions and won the coveted US Heavyweight Championship Belt. And, true to his word, he rebuffed Debra's attempts to reconcile, walking away triumphantly with his hard earned, first won belt high in the air.

Don't underestimate Mongo


Reggie White was given a wrestling lesson

BRAIN REACTION



Bobby "The Brain" Heenan is the co-host of WCW Monday Nitro Live on TNT. He also serves as color commentator on WCW Clash and PPV broadcasts. All the views expressed are his and his alone!

Stevie Richards ain't all there, I think we all know that. He's about a step smarter than Rick Steiner, he's a Most Wanted among the Fashion Police, and a haircut away from being called a human. And yet he's the ... uh, normal one of this mysterious Richards-Raven pair. By the time you humanoids read this column while relaxing on your rented furniture, I have no clue if Raven will be looking to smash a chair over Richards' head — or offering Richards the chair in friendship. The same holds true for Richards, what he would/will do with a chair. I just know these two guys mean trouble.

Raven. First, he's certifiably nuts, no question about it. Just look at him: Tattoos, mangy hair, ragged clothes and some sort of metal pole in his tongue. Then listen to him. Raven came on during the opening segment of Monday Nitro in mid-August and babbled for about two minutes. What did he say? Seriously, what the hell did he say? I caught the words "acne," "childhood," and "Stevie Richards." So am I to assume Stevie Richards had real bad acne as a child? How does Raven know? Why does Raven know? Why does Raven care? Why should I care? Raven clearly is coo-coo. Maybe he's the reincarnation of Kevin Sullivan. Oy, can you picture the Sullivan-Raven tag team? They'd try to explain to the world that Alexander The Great, a distant cousin of Jesus Christ, was the inventor of baseball — yet had no idea that one plus one equals two. Raven scares me. I won't talk to him. If J.J. Dillon insisted I do an interview with Raven, forget it, I'm outta there. Gene Okerlund is the perfect partner for that "plum" assignment: The Screw-Loose talking to The Hair-Less.

As for Richards, I think he's kinda OK, once you get past the wacky exterior. I hear he's a pretty good wrestler, although often injured. Ya know, for a small donation, Stevie, all of which will go directly to a children's charity in Sri Lanka that I support, I will be glad to offer a bit of advice. I'd say, 'Have your people call my people,' but, I don't know if he knows how to operate a telephone. So Stevie, if you can't call me, just track me down backstage at a Monday Nitro — but don't do it when anyone else is watching!

Let's move along, humanoids ...

As strange as Raven is, Sting is more mysterious. He truly moves in mysterious ways. Speechless and expressionless. Black and white outfit. The baseball bat. The rafters. The bird. I don't know; I don't get it. I've never really been a big fan of Stinger; he was always a bit too goody two-shoes for me, what with that short, spiked blond hair and the face paint.

Stinger wants Hulk Hogan! You know that. I know that.

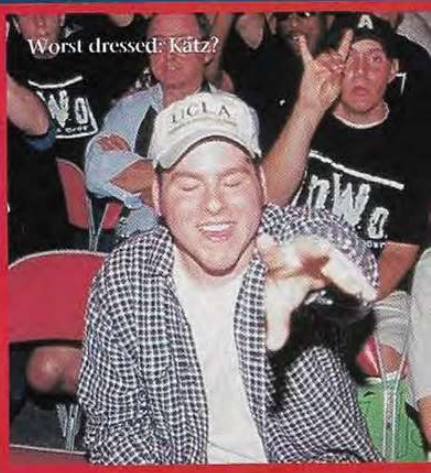
The fat lady in the front row even knows that. Only J.J. Dillon seems to be a bit confused. Well, as far as I'm concerned, Sting can have Hulk. (For good as far as I'm concerned.) Hey, Stinger, enjoy that useless lump of coal, Hulk Hogan. I just hope you don't dirty your hands on him ... because he ain't worth it.

Fred Astaire, Alex Wright. Fred Astaire, Alex Wright. Fred Astaire, Alex Wright.

Some promoter needs to sign Harlem Heat vs. The Steiner Brothers. Right now, they are, I feel, the two best tag teams in WCW, and not necessarily in that order ... and they will deliver a great match.

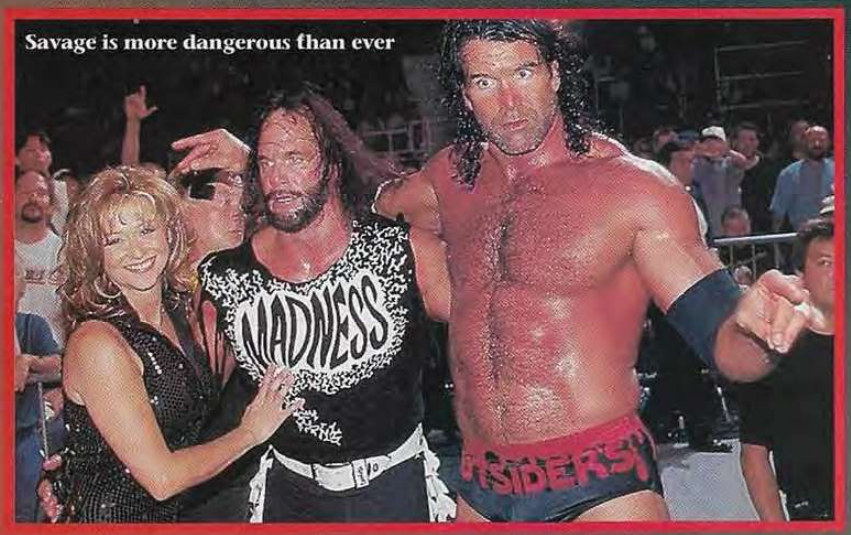
Let's talk a bit about Eddy Guerrero. So much has been made about his actions of late in regard to family members Chavito and Hector. My reaction: big deal. What has Chavito done for Eddy of late? What about Hector? Both are hangers-on. Hector would be retired from wrestling for ten years if it wasn't for Eddy. Chavito would be scooping up nachos at Taco Bell. Plus, let's face it: Family members are good for up to three hours, then they start to smell.

Sign Piper vs. Hogan now



Worst dressed: Kätz?

Worst dressed: Raven?



Savage is more dangerous than ever

With all of the tension in the Guerrero family, why do you think Eddy and Juventud get along so well.

"Flounder" Mark Madden, aka, The Ultimate Mark was spotted at a hotel in Connecticut recently. Oh wait, he was the hotel.

Worst dressed:

"Macho Man" Randy Savage looks better today than at almost any time in his career. What a scary thought that is. "Macho Man" also is another screw-loose psychopath. Nothing has changed in that part of his career.

Despite all of the hoopla surrounding a future Hogan-Sting match, I personally wanna see Hogan vs. "Rowdy" Roddy Piper. As you know, I don't really care for the man in the dress ... any man in a dress, that is. However, I know Piper can beat Hogan. He's done it before and he'll do it again. Maybe Piper will throw in a stipulation that, if he wins, Hogan has to wear a mini-skirt for 60 days. Even in public.

Talking of bad dress sense, I am running a special competition: The worst dressed man in WCW/NWO. My three picks are Dave Penzer, Raven and Jeff Katz and here are the pix to prove it. Send me your opinions.

There are rumors running rampant that The Outsiders are gonna split. Well, not split for good, just split and start wrestling in singles matches. And while that might make you think, at first, that The NWO won't be strong or well represented in the tag team ranks, no way. This team of Vicious & Delicious (V-D), as much as I hate to say it, is very impressive. Right now, while The Outsiders are still together and still champs, V-D is in a perfect position. Marcus "Buff" Bagwell can strut around the arena, posing, perfecting his moves. Scott "Flash" Norton can fine tune those high powered moves he does. Wins and losses don't really matter to them right now. With The Outsiders on top, V-D doesn't need the wins to move up the rankings' ladder. They can have fun and pound people ... and that makes for a very scary tag team.

Steve "Mongo" McMichael is a great success story: He sold his soul for cash — and entrance into The Four Horsemen — and, in just over a year, became the United States Champion. I hear Da Coach has been calling for "Mongo" to return to football.

Anyone hear the latest on that runt Jimmy Hart? Well, I've got the skinny on that skinny little toad, and I'm gonna croak, I mean, kick it out to you right now. My pal Jimmy has been trying to secure the services ... get ready for this ... of an NWO member. Jimmy isn't jumping aboard The NWO Express, at least that's what my sources are saying; However, he is working on a block-buster, one that would secure himself a once-NWO talent ... and, of course, a nice, healthy royalty check. Way to go, peanut, I mean, pal.

Blue-54, red-82, set, hut, hut, Madusa!

In closing, I want to address an article in last month's WCW Magazine, the one titled "Who's Hot and Who's Not." This two-page story, starting on page 18 (and ending on page 19, you humanoids), offers a commentary on, well, who's a stud and who's a dud in pro wrestling, according to their looks. What a bunch of crap that article was! To start with, Sting is Number one, ranked the hottest-looking star in the sport. Um, excuse me Ms. Twinkle-Eyes Writer, Sting is so ugly he has to paint his face before he is seen in public. Then you've got Diamond Dallas Page ranked as the fifth sexiest. What are we grading on? Tattoo design? Evidently Dr. Ruth Writer failed to look above Page's shoulders. Further proof that Ms. Googly-Eyed Writer was drunk from cologne comes at the end of the "Lukewarm" section: "Nature Boy" Ric Flair. Toots, Ric has forgotten more about Space Mountain than you'll ever know.

I continued to scan the rest of that crapola article and, guess what? No mention of yours truly, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan. Was it a simple oversight from Atilla The Writer? I don't think so. Was it a personal cheap shot at me since I wouldn't let her cut in front of me at the buffet? Of course. Honey, my advice to you is simple: Stick to crochet! That said, if I do not receive a written apology within 30 days for that article from Colin Bowman, Editor-in Chief/Publisher of this rag; AND Ross Forman, Executive editor, heads will roll. If you think I'm joking on this, try me. I'm a stud ... and am willing to show up, up-side your head! *(Note from Patty: We were rating MEN, not WEASELS!)*

That's it for this month, humanoids ... the pleasure was all yours,

Bobby.

Sting is weird

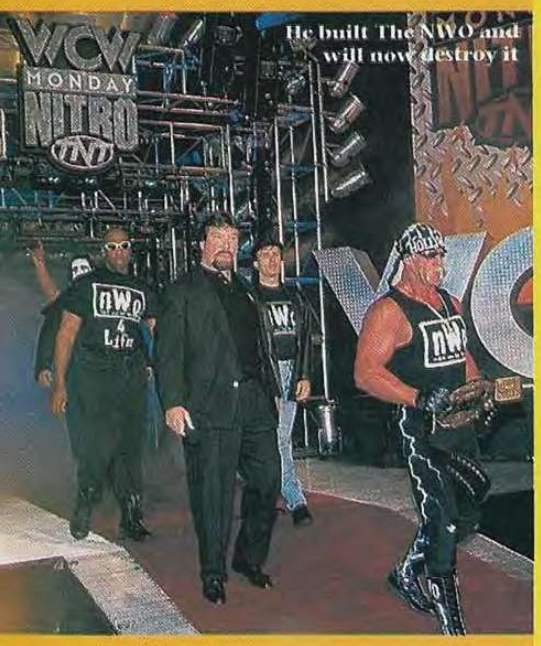
Seeing the LIGHT

Where was Ted DiBiase for the majority of the summer? Was he content? Was he looking for new members to join The New World Order? Was he bitter at The NWO's actions, especially ego-driven Eric Bischoff who thrust himself into the main "public speaking" role for the anti-hero organization? Was he going to return to the federation that has the second best wrestling show on Monday nights?

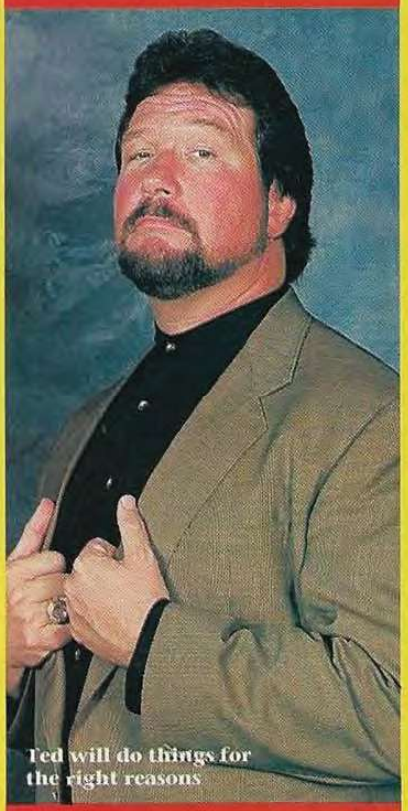
Well, every question was answered August 4th, at the Palace of Auburn Hills (Mich.), during the first three hour Monday Nitro telecast. The facts were: DiBiase dumped The NWO, joined forces with The Steiner Brothers, Rick and Scott. It was a night of "excitement, joy and bliss, among other emotions" for the veteran wrestling personality. DiBiase was, for the first time in about 10 years, cheered by the standing room only crowd.

"As I said on the television during an interview that night, it was a decision long coming," DiBiase said. "The root of this thought pattern in my life goes back much more than the near-three months I was away from the scene, while all of the rumors about my future, ran rampant."

In reality, the DiBiase of present has his roots in the DiBiase of six years ago, when he reached a crisis point in his life. DiBiase was, you see, caught up in being a star, making as much money as he could. He was enjoying the life of a celebrity as much as he could, to the point where it became a detriment to his family. He wasn't spending "quality time" with his wife and kids. "Suffice to say, I had become quite self-consumed," he now says.



He built The NWO and will now destroy it


Ted will do things for the right reasons

Rumors spread like wildfire in professional wrestling, maybe even faster. If someone is looking to change federations for example, you can hear about it any number of ways, from 900 numbers to the Internet. Rumors, though, are nothing more than fiction until the appropriate person(s) prove them fact.

When DiBiase actually joined The NWO, he left the Northeast-based promotion in, one, a business move and, two, a family move. Joining The NWO afforded DiBiase more time with his family.

"Throwing my backing behind The NWO seemed like the natural thing to do," DiBiase said. "I was, when I joined The NWO, still a cutthroat businessman, totally consumed with money, totally consumed with chasing that all-mighty dollar at any cost. It didn't matter who I hurt or how I did it. I just had to make the most.

"Well, while I was doing that, and this is the hard part ... my inner spirit was talking to me. Things that, at one point in my career, didn't bother me at all, started to bother me. For instance, totally taking advantage of someone, hurting someone as long as it furthered the cause of The NWO. Case in point, The Steiner Brothers. Remember months back when I jumped up on the ring apron, ripped the turnbuckle pad off (the turnbuckle) so Kevin Nash could run Rick Steiner's head into the turnbuckle to win the match? Nash repeatedly did it to the point where I jumped up and said, 'That's enough.' Nash and I had an argument about how things should be done and I just walked away, disgusted."

Shortly after the debacle with Nash, DiBiase went on a personal pilgrimage to Israel. And that's where — believe it or not — the whole wrestling picture came into focus. He was, he learned abroad, walking the wrong path, heading down a one-way street in the wrong direction. DiBiase's personal relationship with God was of the utmost importance, but everything The NWO stood for contradicted all that is right.

DiBiase returned from Israel a changed man, but no one really knew it. The first Nitro DiBiase was back in the U.S. for was in Nashville. He attended, but didn't go out to ringside with The NWO. DiBiase simply watched with "inner disgust."

We didn't see him again until that August night in Auburn Hills.

"The Steiner Brothers are two guys with a lot of honor and integrity, and I really admire that," DiBiase said. "They are brothers who have stuck together through thick and thin. They were amateur stars who then followed their dreams into the professional ranks, overcoming a lot of serious injuries along the way.

"They want revenge on The NWO, namely Hall and Nash, as much as I do.

"I don't expect anyone to swallow this pill (DiBiase as a good guy) wholeheartedly after the track record I've laid down, but, I want to prove to Rick and Scott — and the entire wrestling world — that there has been a change in me, that I no longer will do whatever it takes, that I now will do things with honor and integrity.

"You can say what you want about The Steiners, but they have tremendous heart, tremendous integrity. They took

He would love to manage a World Champion

a chance on me, and it's going to pay off."

It almost did days later, at Road Wild in Sturgis, S.D. The Steiners were a wink away from a three count and, more importantly, the World Tag Team Championship belts. Referee Nick Patrick's hand was on his way down to the mat for the third time when he was jerked from the ring. The decision: Disqualification. Hence, no title change.

"The Outsiders were beat. They know they were beat. I know they were beat. You know they were beat. The world knows they were beat," DiBiase said. "I know The NWO will keep its cool, walking and talking a good game, but underneath they are running scared because they know The Steiners are a better team. They also know that I know more about them than anyone."

DiBiase's NWO knowledge, and drive, could be the key to stopping the spaceship that is The Black & White Express. WCW fans and wrestlers have reason to doubt DiBiase, but now is the time to show him support, make him feel welcome under the World Championship Wrestling banner. The past is the past, and there's nothing that can change it. DiBiase now must focus on the future — with the full support of WCW.

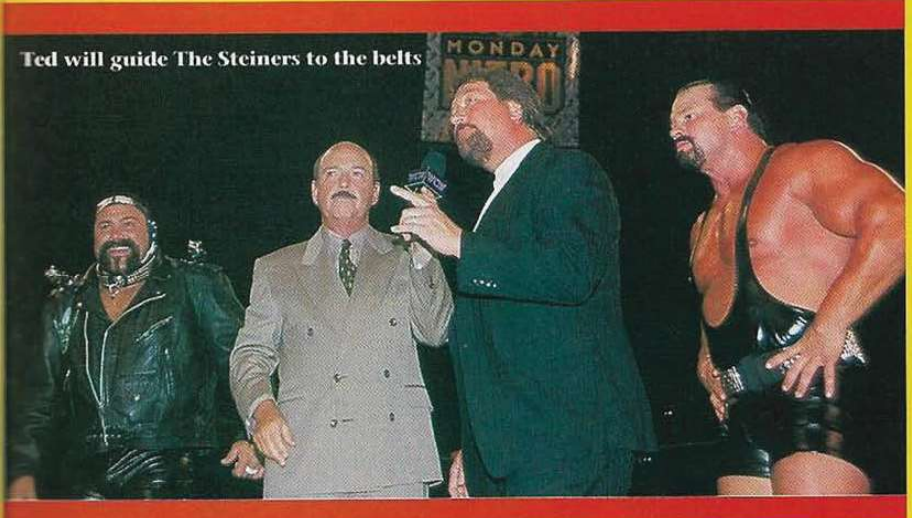
"When The Steiners called me out from the back (that Nitro in Michigan), I didn't know what to expect. It's almost as if I was expecting the fans to boo them for associating themselves with me," DiBiase said. "The reaction was the complete opposite, and that just blew me away. It was a good feeling. Actually, it was a great feeling and it just makes me all the more determined not to let anyone down.

"Right now, my focus is on my commitment to The Steiners, to leading them to the World Tag Team Championship straps. But, this is a public statement: I will help anyone — underline anyone — in WCW who is out to bring down The NWO, just so long as they come to trust that I am sincere.

"One thing that has not changed about Ted DiBiase is, I am still a man of tremendous wealth. I now am just a man of tremendous wealth and focus. That monster which I helped build, The NWO, I am now going to help destroy. In whatever way possible."

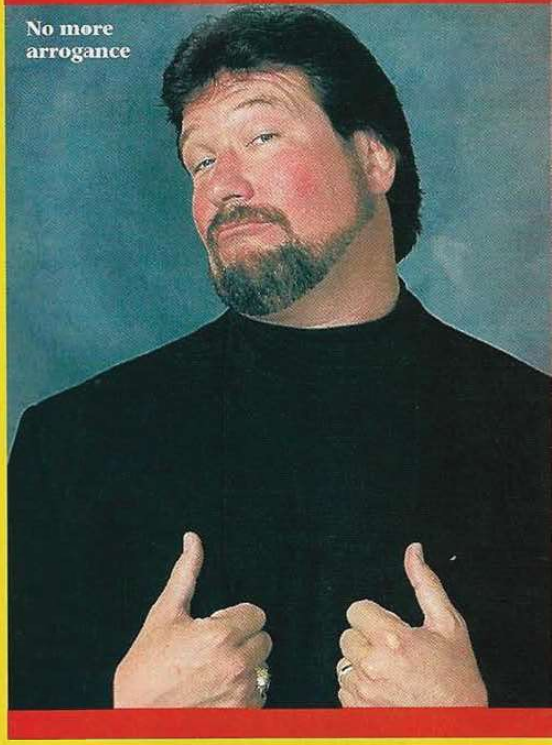
But, no doubt, the righteous way, the way his late dad ("Iron" Mike) would have wanted, the way God certainly wants.

"I want my father to be proud of me again, and also my Heavenly Father," DiBiase said. "My father was a tremendous amateur wrestler who went on to become a revered in our business as one of the very best technicians. He often was hated, but respected." 'Iron' Mike died during the summer of 1969.



Ted will guide The Steiners to the belts

On September 5th, DiBiase's autobiography was due to hit bookstands. The book entitled "Every Man Has His Price: The True Story of Wrestling's Million Dollar Man", explains, in detail, DiBiase's rise to stardom in professional wrestling, then his personal fall when he lost sight of what really matters in life, God. The book also discusses the many unknown hardships of pro wrestling, and was written in conjunction with Bill Butterworth.



No more arrogance

"I'm telling my story in hopes that it helps other people," DiBiase said. "There's a lost generation out there, kids who see the American dream as being that you only made it if you make a load of money. But my statement to them is, I've been to the top of that material mountain and it's not all that it's cut out to be. Without God as a central focus of my life — more specifically, Jesus Christ — my life has no meaning. Since I've put my faith in Jesus Christ and turned my life around, my life is so much more fulfilling than it's ever been.

"I tell my kids something all the time that holds true for everyone: You can be anything you want to be if you are willing to pay the price to obtain the goal you are after. Nothing in life that's worth having comes easy. The good things in life come with sacrifices."

DiBiase's book is, ironically, a pun on his longtime philosophy, that everyone has a price.

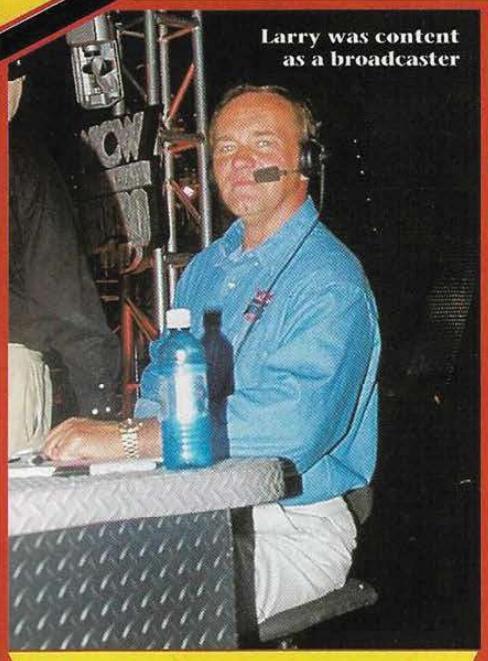
"We all pay a price for the choices we make in life. So, in that aspect every man does have a price," DiBiase said. "I hope to share the realization, the revelation that not every man has a price."

DiBiase added, "The reality of actually being a published author has not sunk in yet. If anyone had said to me two years ago that I would be an author, I would have said, 'You are nuts.'"

It's kinda like the fans cheering for DiBiase, and that's a fact these days.

Got any other rumors?

BEWARE The Legend


Larry was content as a broadcaster

The world wants Zbyszko back. Sure, his insightful, opinionated commentary during the first hour of Monday Nitro is appreciated, but his actions inside the squared-circle are what fans really crave. And their signs say so each and every Nitro. Why? Larry Zbyszko is a throwback in our sport. Zbyszko is a hard-nosed, old school wrestler. He's among the toothless, cauliflower ear clan, not the 'Gee, how pretty do I look?' generation. Zbyszko was what wrestlers used to call "the old school shooters", aka, The Policemen, just like Karl Gotch, Bob Roop and Billy Robinson. Very simply, Zbyszko laid down the law for up and coming grapplers. You didn't get into the sport until you got past Zbyszko — and very few got past him. Most just survived.

Today, there isn't a Policeman in our profession — other than Zbyszko, who watches all of the action from his post on the broadcast platform.

"I was stretching fans while Royce Gracie was crawling in diapers, while Scott Hall was in the third-grade picking his nose, while Eric Bischoff was selling rubber ninja junk," Zbyszko said. "If these guys think I'm gonna get in the ring and pop around like Juventud Guerrera, they're nuts. I'm gonna take them down on the mat and I'm gonna make them cry. Everything I was taught about professional wrestling is exactly what all of these greaseballs in The New World Order are against. I look at The NWO as a direct reflection of the decline of manlihood and humanity. There was a time when men were men and women kept their mouths shut and were proud of it. Nowadays, I've never seen such a generation of wimps in my life."

Zbyszko talks a good game, and certainly can back it up. Hence, the nickname "Living Legend". Zbyszko has held titles in several federations and fought the best this sport has offered over the years. Fear? Forget it. That's a four-letter word Zbyszko doesn't know.

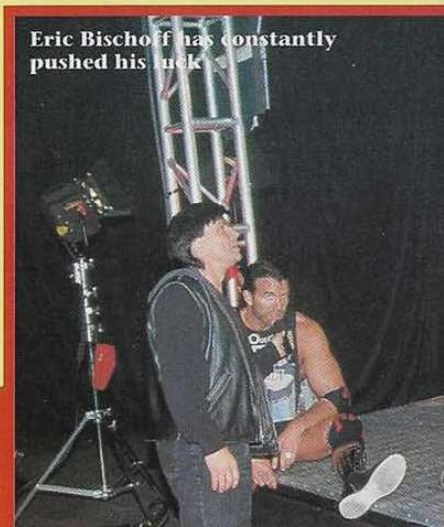
The NWO has run roughshod through WCW. They know every cheap shot approach imaginable and their opposition has been slow, sometimes lethargic. WCW often fights internally rather than focusing on the problem at hand: The NWO.

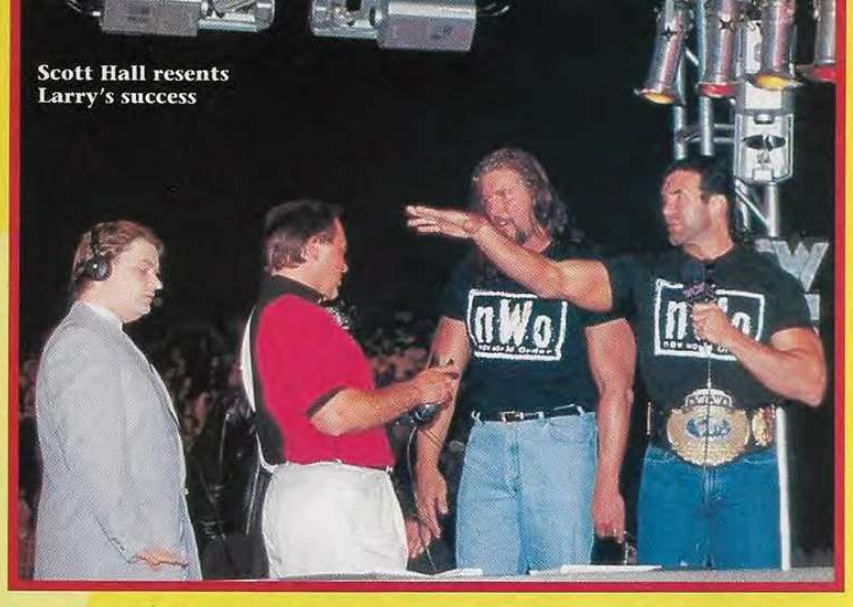
That's where Zbyszko could — and should — step forward. He would be an ideal captain for WCW, a team leader if you will. He doesn't need to wrestle, although he certainly could. Zbyszko just needs to step-forward into a more active role in WCW, not just as a broadcaster. Love him or hate him, there's one thing every wrestler will say about Larry Zbyszko: They respect him.

So what would it take to un-retire Zbyszko?

"Quite a bit," he said, "or I just have to really lose my cool and get mad enough to get back in. If that happens, I feel real sorry for the guy

The boots and tights are packed away, stored neatly in the closet he affectionately calls "Larry-Land". They're clean, but aged, and yes, they do still fit their owner. But will he ever wear them again? Will Larry Zbyszko come out of retirement [again] to give a wrestling lesson to, say, Scott Hall? Or maybe even Eric Bischoff?


Eric Bischoff has constantly pushed his luck



Scott Hall resents Larry's success

who is on the other side of the ring."

Zbyszko insisted a return to the ring is now "just a rumor" but one he's proud to hear. He said he now has "no plans" of getting back in the ring. But, he added, "those plans can be changed if certain members of The New World Order step out of bounds and tick me off, like Lord Regal did a few years ago.

"Just because Bischoff is an idiot and Hall's a moron doesn't mean I need to get back into action. When Scott Hall started wrestling, I wiped his face into the mat. Well, for some reason he thinks I can't do it anymore. He's wrong; he seems to forget one simple saying: legends never lose it. In fact, I've forgotten more submission wrestling than the entire New World Order put together will ever know, and that includes (The Great) Muta and (Masahiro) Chono."

Zbyszko was the AWA World Heavyweight Champion years ago when a newcomer joined the Minnesota-based federation, working in the front office. That then-wrestling newcomer went from being a no one to the head of the biggest wrestling organization in the world. Of course we're talking about Eric Bischoff, the former "nice, easy-going guy who was busting his butt just trying to be a somebody," Zbyszko said.

Then came Bischoff's jump aboard the Black And White Express. He quickly became a monster drunk with power, much like Napoleon, Alexander the Great, Saddam Hussein, Julius Caesar and others.

Eventually, though, they all crumbled. Will Bischoff's NWO?

Zbyszko said Yes. With a capital Y.

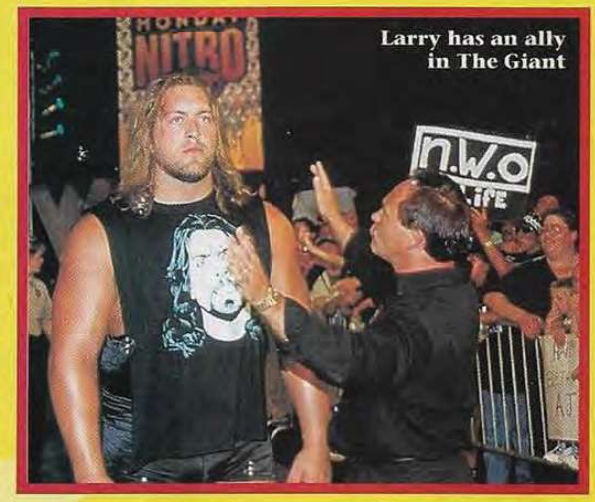
"I've had it with Bischoff's whole attitude," said Zbyszko, who, ironically, was the first person Bischoff, years ago while in the AWA, interviewed. "Scott Hall also gets under my skin. 'Hollywood' Hulk Hogan comes out and shoots his mouth, saying things like, 'If it wasn't for me, there wouldn't be any pro wrestling.' That's only partially true. Hogan obviously, and conveniently, forgot that, if it wasn't for guys like me, Bruno (Sammartino), Verne (Gagne) and the generation before, there would be no Hulk Hogan."

Bischoff has been the first to feel Zbyszko's fury with a little, well, a lot of help from The Giant. During a summertime Monday Nitro, Bischoff started shooting his mouth off about Zbyszko, including derogatory comments about Zbyszko's golf game. Big mistake. Zbyszko snapped. He grabbed Bischoff and dragged him from the broadcast area to the ring, to a waiting Giant. The 7-foot-4 monster then chokeslammed Bischoff. The arena went nuts. WCW wrestlers in the locker rooms went wild.

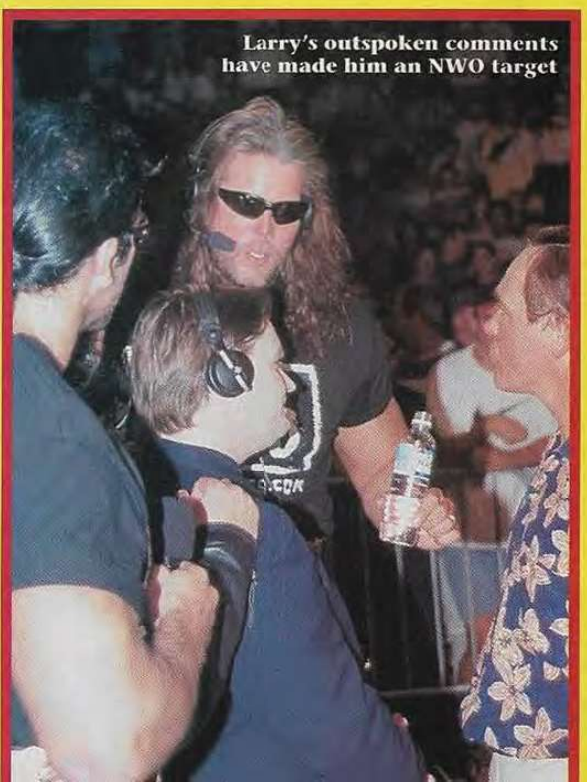
Zbyszko was the man of the hour, again.

"The question for me now is, Why? Why should I come back?," Zbyszko said. "I don't need the money and I don't want to end up like Arn Anderson. Arn had a lot of years left, but, with his recent neck operation, I don't think he will ever wrestle again. So why return? It's a really heavy-duty choice."

Well, we'd like to offer a few reasons: Hall, Nash, Syxx, Hogan and Bischoff. Need more incentive, Larry? How about 'Buff' Bagwell, Scott Norton, 'Macho Man' Randy Savage and Konan.



Larry has an ally in The Giant


Larry's outspoken comments have made him an NWO target

SENOR SONNY

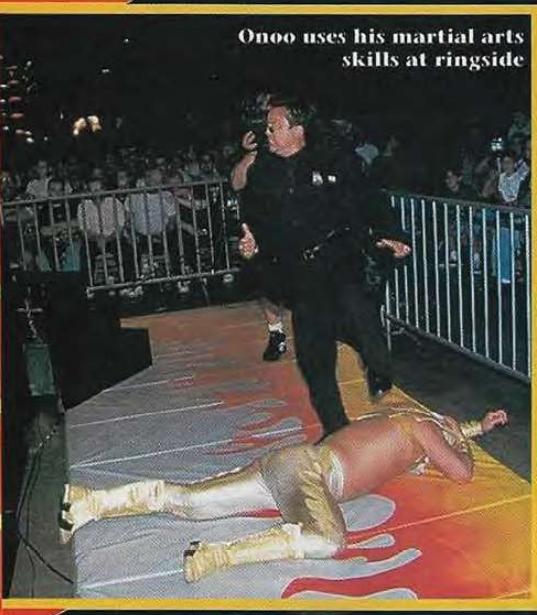
Psychosis is the jewel in Onoo's crown

If you turn on your television set late at night and hear a high-pitched salesman hawking some "must have, can't live without gadget," look closely. We're NOT saying to order it immediately, but, don't instantly hit the remote for HBO. Watch and wait ... perhaps you'll see salesman Sonny Onoo, the man who could – and would – sell ice to an Eskimo.

Would you trust this man?

Onoo is the ultimate con man, a shrewd, cunning businessman who knows no boundaries when it comes to making a buck. Or should we say, yen. Or, more appropriate of late, peso.

Onoo has rewritten NAFTA, aligning himself in WCW with Mexican lucha libre stars Psychosis and La Parka. The wrestlers are laughing all the way to the bank with their new financial/managerial arrangement. But is Onoo laughing louder? He continues to insist the arrangement is on the up-and-up, nothing more than the tradition 5 to 10 percent managerial commission. We bet it's closer to 25 percent, maybe even more.



Onoo uses his martial arts skills at ringside

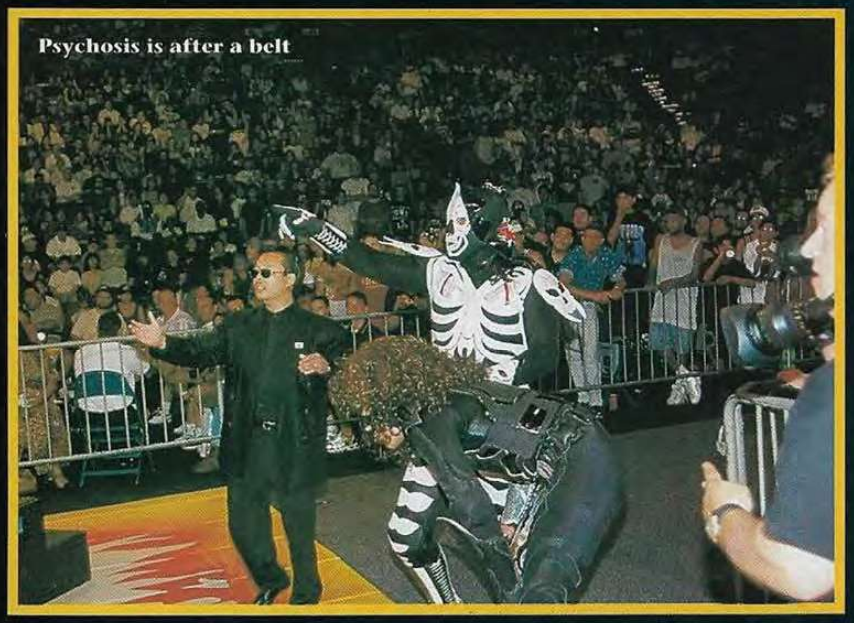
"I don't know where you're getting this information. I never would do anything to adversely affect my positive image within the worldwide business market. And I will not comment on my exact financial arrangements; that's none of your business," Onoo snapped. "I am just trying to make the peso and the yen stronger than the dollar, that's my goal. You Americans always look at the small picture, like how you're going to buy your groceries. I look at the larger picture, like how I can take over America."

Onoo has aligned himself with the Spanish speaking stars because the greats of Japan have left him. Can you say Ultimo Dragon? Or Masahiro Chono? Or the Great Muta? Onoo has alienated himself from Japanese wrestlers because of his get rich quick scams. Now he's hooked himself into the Mexican market.

"Japan is an international giant when it comes to economics. Mexico is basically an untapped territory. It is a bargain to be had, and I will be the one to have it," Onoo said. "With all of the abuse that the Mexicans have endured over the years from America, it is, I feel, a must that the Japanese help them. And, if you look at it the way I do, the Japanese and the Mexicans do look like brothers, and I'm sure in distant history we were brothers. So for the Japanese to help the Mexicans at least become equal ... well, that's the least I can do. And I'm very happy, very proud I can be of assistance to them."

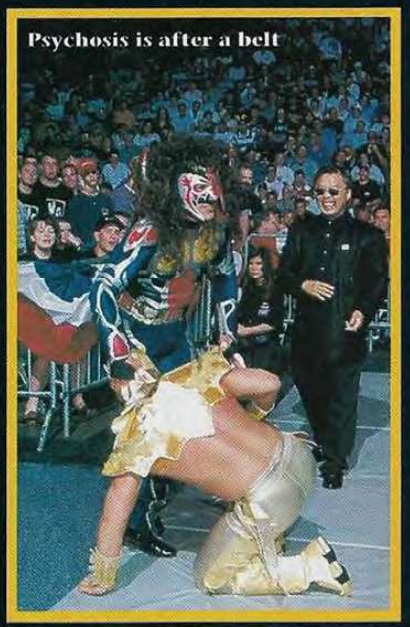
Onoo has aligned himself with two of Mexico's greats. First, Psychosis, a daredevil who knows no limits. If there's a high-risk move to be done, Psychosis will do it. Hey, he didn't just earn his name by eating a bunch of burritos loaded with hot peppers. Then there's La Parka, WCW's unofficial Chair Man. La Parka swings chairs like Frank Thomas of the Chicago White Sox swings his Louisville Slugger. La Parka is a giant among the traditional Mexican luchadors, yet also offers the carefree offense of wrestlers like Rey Mysterio, Jr.

Psychosis and La Parka have Onoo smiling as wide as ever.



Psychosis is after a belt

"Psychosis has the height, strength, physical abilities and a high-risk offense unequaled in this sport. He is an untapped commodity. In fact, I'm going to go out on a limb and say, he will be a champion within six months. Maybe he'll be the Cruiserweight Champion, or the Television Champion, or the U.S. Champion, or, do I dare say, the World Heavyweight Champion," Onoo said. "I signed La Parka because, plain and simply, I needed some protection, what with Konan jumping to The NWO and all of the sneak attacks in WCW. La Parka is my insurance, my equalizer. Plus, chairs are very inexpensive in Mexico. "La Parka has been feuding of late with Super Calo and, well, that's just a Mexican thing between them. I don't try to get into their internal feuds. I'm just interested in my personal battles ... and of course anything that will make me money."



Psychosis is after a belt

Like photographs. You know those Kodak, oops, Fuji Moments Onoo snaps with his stars as they approach the ring. Well, those pics don't end up in some family photo album with cute captions. Instead, they are sold to underground Japanese outlets, such as Internet providers and magazines. Onoo earns up to $10,000 per photo, he said.

"You always hear Americans making fun of the Japanese for their glasses and cameras. But do you know why we wear glasses? So we can take the proper pictures. And our pictures don't just get flooded in the Midwest, like what happens to all of you Americans. Our pictures are sold," he said. "Because of the opportunities I have to take some confidential pictures, including some I have of Madusa, I can sell them and make a considerable amount of money. I get to go to places that no wrestling reporter can go, yourself included, and I take pictures there." Onoo's photo portfolio, reportedly, includes candid shots of Madusa, Ric Flair and even some NWO members.

Perhaps including Masahiro Chono, Onoo's former friend. Or maybe The Great Muta, another former ally. Both are now stalwarts in The NWO, laughing at the scrawny WCW manager.

Onoo, though, harbors no ill will toward them.

"I can't really blame them for what they did, joining The NWO," Onoo said. "No, I didn't like the way they went about their business with me, but, the one I really blame is New Japan Pro Wrestling. I didn't hire those gentlemen to come work for me. No, no, no. I made an agreement with New Japan Pro Wrestling. Now if New Japan cannot control their talent, how can I be held accountable? Muta and Chono are international stars. More than that, they are freelancers, independent contractors. So, when The NWO offered them all of that money, who can blame them for taking it? I don't blame them; I probably would have done the same. I just would have gone about it a little different, a little more professional.

"I still would like to do business with Chono and Muta in the future, and I think that may happen again very soon."

Ultimo Dragon, though, is another story. Onoo is still quite peeved at his former protégé, who is now going it sans managerial guidance.

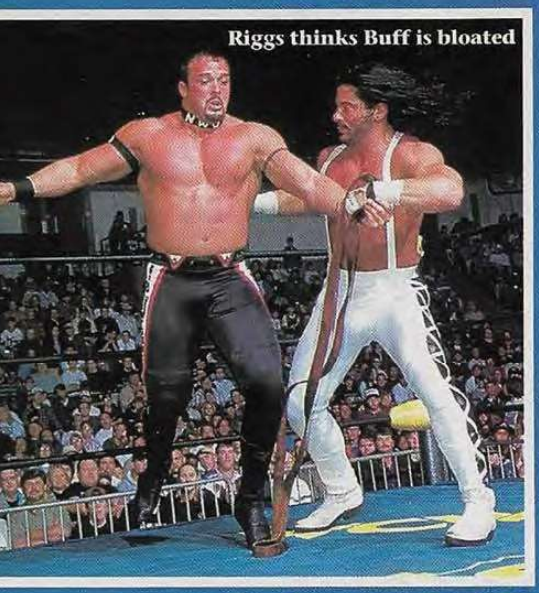
"Where was he before he aligned himself with me? No where," Onoo said. "I opened the door for him. I treated him well, showed him the ways of America and got him a very lucrative deal with WCW, which I'm still receiving from, by the way. Then he disrespected me. He thought he could go on his own, but he's going to find out very, very soon that, if it wasn't for me, he'd still be selling tacos. He doesn't know anything about business."

Onoo said he plans to add more wrestlers to his stable by the end of 1997, perhaps even stars from such locales as North Korea, Indonesia, the South Pacific and, uh, Iowa.

"Hey, Iowa is the greatest state when it comes to amateur wrestling," he explained. "Dan Gable was a great coach at the University of Iowa and the locals just seem to have a great work ethic, maybe because they have all of that free time on their hands."

Psychosis is a high-flying wizard

NO REGRETS


Riggs thinks Buff is bloated

Scotty Riggs burst on the WCW scene as half of the American Males tag team (with Marcus Bagwell) two years ago. A relative rookie to the sport, he and Bagwell managed to snag the tag team belts from The Harlem Heat only 2 weeks into his WCW stint. The American Males continued to excel until the fateful day in Salisbury, Maryland last November, when Bagwell defected to The NWO and Riggs, remaining loyal to WCW and himself, refused to follow his partner to the other side. Since then, Riggs has been competing on his own, taking his knocks and making a name for himself in the singles ranks. Marcus, now dubbed "Buff", Bagwell, has gone on to form a tag team with fellow NWO-er Scott Norton, known as Vicious and Delicious.

Does Riggs regret not joining The NWO when his ex-partner jumped ship?

"They say hindsight is 20-20 but I have no regrets about my decision to stay with WCW. The NWO is very powerful group but there are too many egos within the group and each member is looking out for himself. Sure, they work in a pack but their cohesiveness is starting to crumble. Their weaknesses are starting to show," Riggs said. "When Bagwell got the chance to join The NWO, he did it at my expense, basically. He wasn't concerned with the team or what I was going to do. He went over there because his ego drove him there."

And speaking of egos, Riggs feels that Buff fits in perfectly with the ego-driven NWO. "Marc Bagwell has got one of the biggest egos in the world; it's even bigger than that fat head of his." He said with a laugh. "And as far as his new nickname "Buff" goes, I don't think he looks buff, I think he looks bloated."

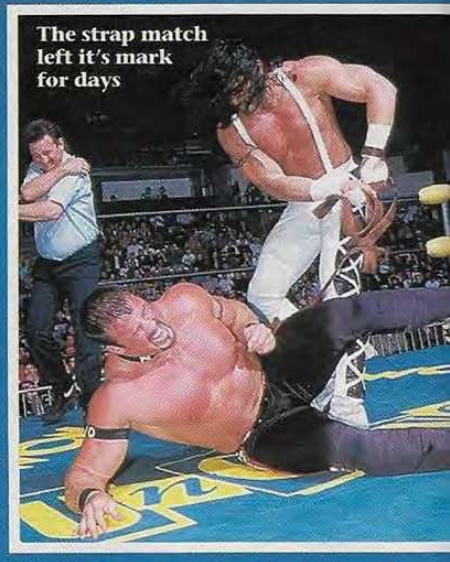
The breakup of the team was actually a blessing in disguise, said Riggs, freeing him up to compete as a singles wrestler and allowing him to gain the experience he knows he needs before moving up in the ranks.

"Nothing and nobody is holding me back now and I have a chance to work my way up in the company and make a name for myself, so in a way, Marc did me a favor turning on me."

Since joining The NWO, Bagwell has had plenty to say about his ex-American Males partner. Basically, "Buff" takes all the credit for the team's success and has said on many occasions that he, not Riggs, was the driving force behind the team. Bagwell has even gone so far as to invite Riggs into the NWO, to carry his and Norton's bags.

Riggs, undaunted by the often biting personal remarks from Bagwell, said, "In the future when I am getting the wins, when I am an individual champion and Marc is still teaming with Norton going nowhere, he's gonna look and be saying, 'Man I messed up - look at how successful Scotty Riggs is'".

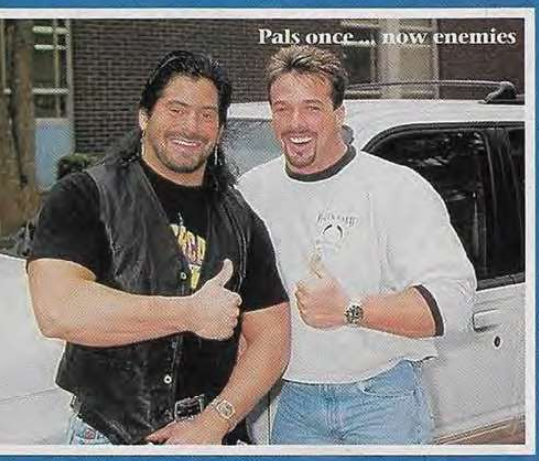
Riggs knows that in an organization where there are an abundance of wrestling superstars, he has to work hard to make a name for himself and he says he is doing just that. "I'm young. I'm the future of this business," he said. "I'll learn my trade, my craft, and gain my experience and I will be in the up and coming generation" of wresting superstars, he said. "This is my learning time, I have only been in WCW two years. I am a rookie and I expect I will have to take a lot of losses before I make a name for myself. I take every loss as a learning experience and every win as a step up the ladder," he added.

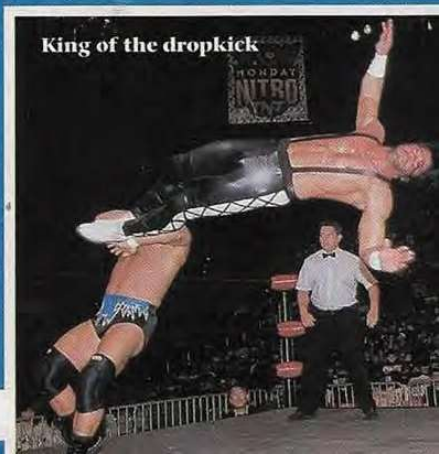

The strap match left it's mark for days

Riggs said his plans for the future do not include another tag team partner. "As a singles competitor I have a lot more goals to shoot for, whereas in a team, I would be again limited to just the tag team championship. Look at Marc, he is already part of another tag team - he can't make it on his own. I want to show the world who Scotty Riggs is, on my own."

Ironically one of Rigg's most memorable matches was a strap match against Bagwell at "Uncensored" Riggs proved he could hold his own in the ring with Bagwell, despite Bagwell's eventual win. "It was brutal. It took three or four days for the bruises across our back, arms and everywhere else to show. But I gave it everything I had and I think the fans were really into it. I walked away hurting, but so did he." Riggs said.

Would he ever consider a rematch with his former ally? "You bet I would.


Pals once ... now enemies



King of the dropkick

Right now he doesn't see me as a threat," he said about Bagwell, "but as soon as I get a title and gain momentum, I'll be the one who'll be slapping him around in the ring."

While Riggs is perfectly content to work his way up in WCW and to gain the respect of his fellow wrestlers and fans the hard way, he does bristle when he hears Bagwell's comments about his ability. "The fact is in a tag team, there are two members, two people working the match. Bagwell says I can carry his and Norton's bags but what is he doing now? Carrying Hogan's bags, carrying Hall and Nash's bags. He's the gopher in The NWO. They didn't want him, and they didn't need him. He'll be left by the wayside when this is all said and done" he said.

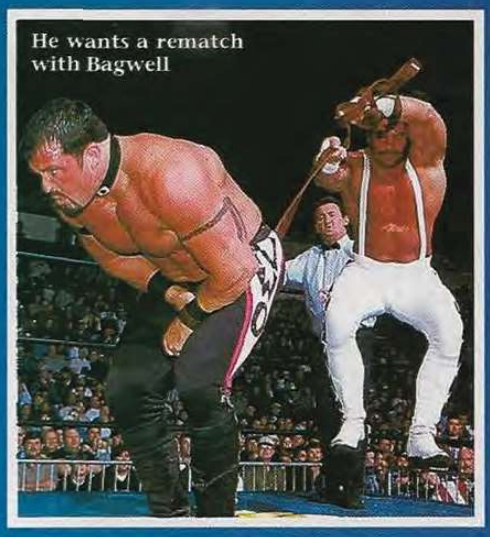
Riggs feels that the strength of The NWO may be starting to falter. "In WCW, we're all starting to band together." he said. He pointed out that when Lex Luger won the World Championship belt from "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan in August, the ring was filled with friends and foes gathering together for the common good of WCW. "We all came together to celebrate Lex's win, whereas in the back, you had Hogan saying 'You have to protect ME, You have to watch MY back.' That is where the ego thing really showed itself, I think," he said. "The tides are turning and I see WCW getting stronger while the NWO just might be starting to fall apart."

In this day of the "bad guy" wrestlers, Riggs is one of the good guys, working his matches with determination and respecting his opponent's abilities. "I work every match like it's my last match," he said. "I do every interview like it's gonna be the last time you ever see me, so I'll never have any regrets. Win, lose or draw, I'll never have any regrets."

"And", he added with determination, "don't count me out because all I need is one big win and I'll be on the road I need to be on."

And if The NWO does crumble, leaving Bagwell out in the cold?

"If he ever does come back, maybe I'll let him carry my bags. With the emphasis on MAYBE", Riggs said.



He wants a rematch with Bagwell

PROFILE ON RIGGS

Riggs has the look that sets female hearts on fire

Scotty Riggs was born in Savannah, Georgia on March 11th. He attended West Georgia University where he earned his degree in business management and played Inside Linebacker on the football team for four years. He also tried his hand at coaching for a season. "For as long as I can remember, I have been involved with sports," he said. "Basketball, football, baseball, golf, track, you name it."

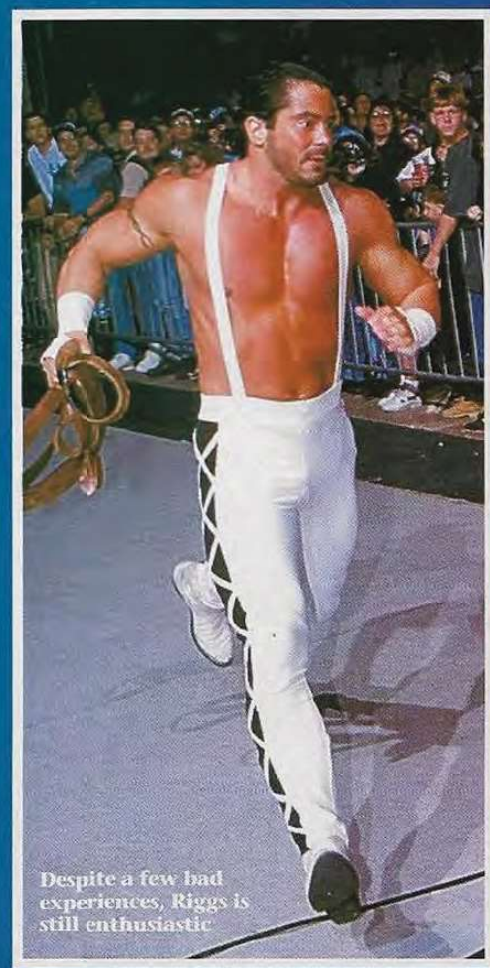
As for wrestling, he had been a fan since about age ten when he and his father attended wrestling matches in his hometown. "I idolized guys like Ricky Steamboat and Blackjack Mulligan," he said. "It's funny. Some of the guys I used to watch, I'm wrestling against now."

Riggs' break into wrestling was an odd one. While working out at a local gym, he struck up a conversation with a guy working out next to him. It turned out that the man was involved in wrestling and invited him down to a little wrestling school that he ran. " I started training and the fourth week, I had my first match," Riggs said.

"I guess because of my athletic background, I picked things up real quick and, being a wrestling fan, I had a basic knowledge of the psychology of the sport."

After gaining some experience, Riggs headed to Memphis to work for an independent wrestling organization. That stint lasted 8 months. In another odd twist of fate, he was picked to do a music video with WCW's Marcus Bagwell. Bagwell's previous tag team, Stars and Stripes, had just split up and he was left without a partner. While the video was being edited, Jimmy Hart noted the distinctive look of the two and, having seen Riggs wrestle in independent shows and a few single night stints with WCW, he came up with the idea of teaming Bagwell and Riggs, and that idea materialized in August, 1995, when Riggs joined WCW and formed The American Males tag team with Marcus Bagwell. The team went on to gain early success, upending the then tag team champs, Harlem Heat, only two weeks after Riggs debuted in WCW.

Today, Riggs is no longer part of a tag team and is working on his singles career in WCW, while his former partner, Bagwell, has defected to the NWO and is wrestling with Scott Norton as the team of Vicious and Delicious.



Despite a few bad experiences, Riggs is still enthusiastic

A. NITRO BLUE LOGO HAT.
New design! 100% brushed cotton twill hat with blue peak and khaki bill. Nitro logo is embroidered on front. Adjustable back with metal clasp.
#TNT W 201 HAT
$15.00

A.

B.

B. WCW LOGO HAT.
Black suede brushed cotton hat with embroidered WCW logo on front. Adjustable back closure.
#WCW W 201 HAT $15.00

C. NITRO 3-D HAT.
The hottest design available in hats! Charcoal grey, low peak hat has embroidered 3-D Nitro logo. 100% brushed cotton twill hat has adjustable back closure.
#TNT W 200 HAT $15.00

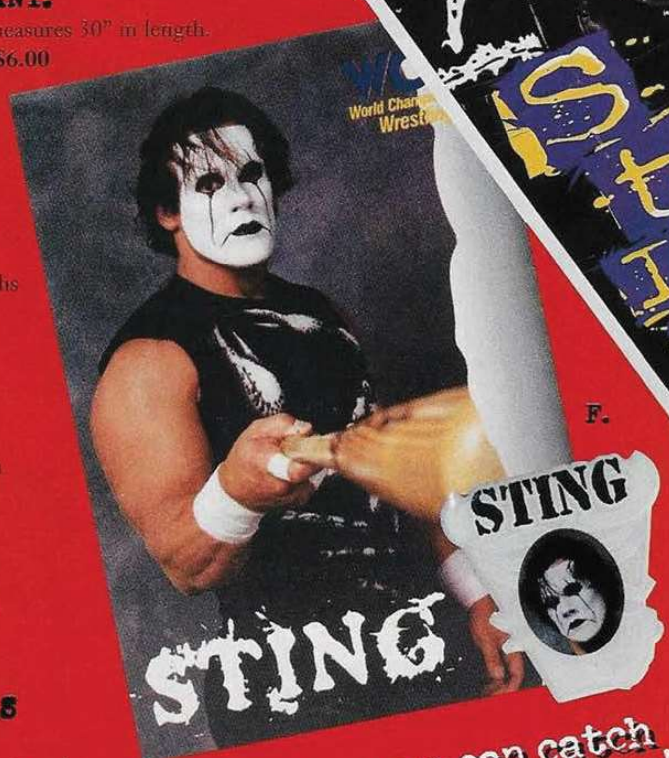
D. WCW BIG BOYS HAT.
Cream suede brushed cotton hat with black bill. "Where The Big Boys Play" ogo embroidered on front. Adjustable back closure.
#WCW W 202 HAT $15.00

E. STING PENNANT.
Pennant by Wincraft measures 30" in length.
#STG W 200 PNT $6.00

E.

G.

F. STING COLLECTIBLE PIN CARD.
Limited edition lapel pin and trading card. Once these collector's items are gone they will not be reproduced! Look for randomly inserted autographs on some cards.
#STG W 200 PIN $10.00



F.

G. STING T-SHIRT.
Just like the Stinger! 100% cotton black t-shirt with full-screened scorpion on front.
Please specify adult or youth.
Adult Sizes: M–XXL $20.00
Youth Sizes: S, M, L $15.00
#STG W 201 T

H. DIAMOND DALLAS T-SHIRT.
100% cotton black t-shirt screened printed on front with the DDP logo, and on back with "Self High Five".
Sizes: M–XXL
#DDP W 200 T $20.00

I.

I. TODDLER S
Ash crew neck tee a
contrasting color tri
screened logo on tee
of shorts. Please spe
WCW W 200 C $22.

Now you can catch more action online! Check us out @ www.wcwwrestling.com

WCW Gear

C.

D.

H.

Der By
e Call
Free
CW-8468

Name				
Address				
City			State	
Zip Code		Country		
❑ Check this box if you have moved and have listed your new mailing address above.				
ITEM	**DESCRIPTION**	**QTY**	**PRICE**	**TOTAL**
			(FL, GA only) State Sales Tax	
			(See chart) Shipping & Handling	
Source Code: WMAG097			**TOTAL**	

PAYMENT METHOD *Payment must accompany all orders. Sorry, no C.O.D.s*

❑ Visa ❑ MasterCard ❑ Discover ❑ American Express

Credit Card Number

Name on Credit Card

Signature

Personal checks and money orders gladly accepted. Make checks payable to: WCW Merchandise
Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. Send order form to:
WCW Merchandise, P.O. Box 30678, Tampa, FL USA 33630-0678

Add the appropriate amount for each Ship To address.
Under $25.00 . . . . . Add $5.95 $25.00–$50.00 . . Add $7.95 $50.01–$75.00 . . Add $8.95
$75.01–$100.00 . . Add $9.95 Over $100.00. . . . Add $11.95

TO ORDER BY PHONE CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-WCW-8468

WCW is the official Trade Mark of World Championship Wrestling, Inc. ©1997 World Championship Wrestling, Inc. All rights reserved.

SINGTHEBELLTJ on Archive.org

J.

J. INFANT 3-PIECE SET.
Tee, pant and socks made out of white 100% cotton with WCW "Where the Big Kids Play" screened logo. Specify 12 months, 18 months or 24 months.
WCW W 200 I $20.00

L.

RT SET.
ort with
0% cotton,
front left leg
T, 3T or 4T.

K. LOGO SNEAKER.
All-over print is made from 100% cotton duck canvas with thermoplastic sole. Specify sizes 0-6 mth, 6-9 mth, 9-12 mth or 12-18 mth. Machine washable.
WCW W 201 I $18.00

K.

L. BABY BIB.
100% cotton terry, vinyl backed and double snaped neck with contrast trim. One size fits all.
WCW W 200 BIB $7.00

TALKING POINT

With Mike Tenay

My two-cents worth ...

CHRIS JERICHO

Has been going through a real maturing process of late. We are finally seeing him come into his own. Other than a few regional matches in the U.S., he primarily wrestled in Mexico and Japan before coming to WCW. He was a standout in both countries, and now we're finally getting to see that stardom in WCW. The fact that he was able to bounce back after losing the Cruiserweight Championship really speaks volumes about him. The fact he has been able to have two World Championship reigns during such a short period of time says a lot about what we can expect in the future from him.

ALEX WRIGHT

A lot of people are down on Alex for his new look and new attitude, but I think what it has translated to is, success. It's that simple. For the first couple of years he was here, we saw a guy who didn't receive very much microphone-time in terms of interviews; he basically was just another player in WCW. But ever since he changed his attitude, he's been given a lot more high-profile opportunities and has worked himself up to Championship status. He not only has held the WCW Cruiserweight Championship, but also the WCW Television Championship. To beat a wrestler the class of Ultimo Dragon says a lot.

ULTIMO DRAGON

The talent has always been there, there's never been a question about that. The realization of his talent has finally hit the wrestling fans and executives of WCW. He really has everything in one package. We call Lex Luger The Total Package. Well, among the Cruiserweights, Ultimo Dragon has the total package. He has the most stiff kicks in professional wrestling.

"ROWDY" RODDY PIPER

Piper seemed to fall off the face of the earth in late-summer, but, I'm sure he'll be back and sooner than you might expect. I think the executives at WCW recognize his track record against "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan. When Piper decides to get back into wrestling full-time, I think he is going to be afforded the opportunity that he deserves — and that's another shot at Hogan. He's proven on more than one occasion that he can match Hogan. Piper needs, and deserves, Hogan in a one on one fight, not a one against The NWO battle. And then he will be World Heavyweight Champion.

HARLEM HEAT

For the last few months with Sister Sherri, the team seemed to be floundering. (No offense, "Flounder" Mark Madden.) The acquisition of Jacquelyn offers someone who they can really rely on. She definitely is one tough manager, not just an arm-piece.

STING

Everywhere I go — airports, hotels, restaurants, taxi cabs, you name it — there is one regular question I receive: When will Sting return? I think Sting's popularity has been proven in the TV ratings, the attendance and the response he receives when he enters an arena. There's now a great mystique surrounding Sting. However, I still have to question Sting's layoff. How will one plus year away from in-ring action affect him if and when he does return?

If WCW is going to mount an offense against The NWO, Sting has to be a part. He is The Franchise ... The WCW Franchise!

LIZMARK, JR.

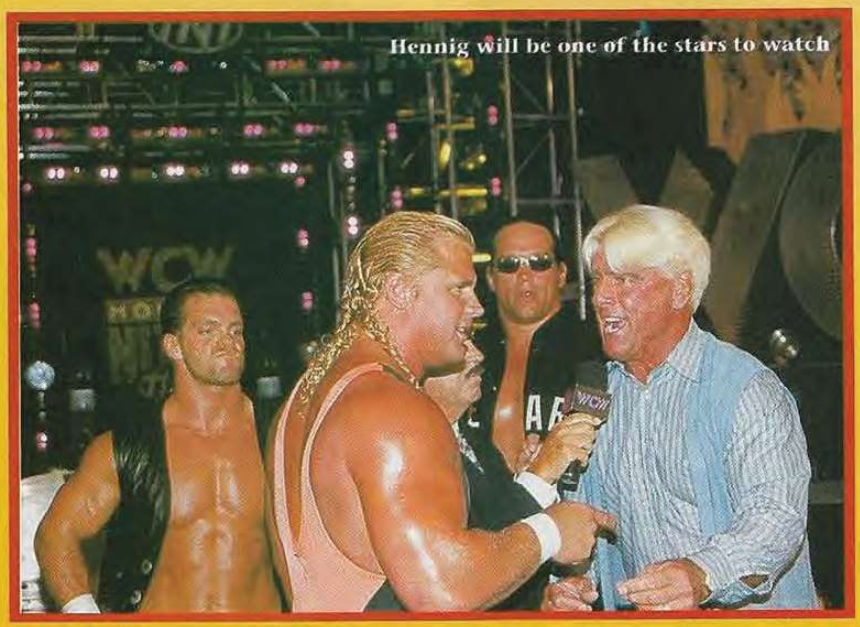
What we've seen to date of Lizmark is very similar to the Chris Jericho situation: A young man (24) who came into his own in Mexico and then all of a sudden had this United States opportunity thrown at him. It was the biggest chance of his career. He is recovering from a serious leg injury and, from what I've seen of his athleticism in Mexico, he is really going to surprise a lot of people who, to this point in his WCW career, have been somewhat disappointed.

SILVER KING

He's 31 and has been wrestling for over a decade in Mexico and abroad. He was, at age 18, the youngest wrestler to tour Japan. In the U.S., his situation is plain and simple: He just has not been given the opportunity to shine. He is not as spectacular as Rey Mysterio, Jr., or Juventud Guerrera, but in terms of proficiency, Silver King has the chance to break through ... he just needs a chance.

CURT HENNIG

I think he is still trying to get back into the groove of a regular wrestling schedule, a la Sting. He has been away from the sport on an active basis for an extended period of time. How will that effect him? I only know he has been working out at Brad Rheingan's Gym in Minneapolis to improve his timing and cardio-vascular conditioning. What about Ric Flair? Plain and simply, two huge egos.



Hennig will be one of the stars to watch

In closing, I want to offer a few predictions that to me are Crystal (Ball) clear.

1. I see rocky times ahead for the association of Eddy Guerrero and Jeff Jarrett. I think they will have a difficult time coexisting, especially with Queen Debra McMichael in the mix.

2. I feel High Voltage has all of the physical tools needed to compete at the upper-echelon of tag team wrestling. The only missing piece to their wrestling puzzle is, they need leadership and guidance. That's why I see High Voltage acquiring a manager in the near-future. Who will it be? My prediction: Someone not currently associated with WCW.

3. I think Mortis stands a very good chance of competing for championship belts once he gets his personal situations out of the way.

Mike Tenay

The Marshall Plan

By "Stagger" Lee Marshall

I never saw myself as a "Party Animal," but now I probably go to as many parties as the so-called "Beautiful People." Our "Monday Nitro Parties" have become a weekly tradition, and I get to be in the middle of it all. For the newly enlightened, each WCW MONDAY NITRO, I do a special feature called The Road Report. This feature comes from a party going on somewhere within the city hosting the upcoming Monday Nitro. One of the side benefits of my "Road Report" is the opportunity to verbally slam-dunk Bobby "The Weasel" Heenan each and every week.

I am always asked, "What goes on at a WCW Monday Nitro Party?" Well, we don't have rules set in stone, so, each and every Monday Nitro party is different. I've been the guest at Nitro parties held at a Hooters Restaurant in Norfolk, Va., as well as a party in suburban Des Moines, Iowa, with a bunch of junior high school students and their parents. One of my favorite Monday Nitro parties took place in Las Vegas. Rather than attend a party at one of the major hotel-casinos on the legendary Vegas Strip, I accepted an invitation to attend a Nitro Party at a neighborhood establishment called The Triple Play. After dropping a couple of obligatory quarters in the video poker machine, we got down to Nitro Party business. As usual, we gathered around a big-screen TV. Within minutes, the room was divided. WCW's faithful sat on one side; those supporting The NWO sat on the other. Throughout the night, I'm always bombarded with questions. Although I've never kept an accounting, I suppose the most-often asked question is regarding a dream match up between Sting and "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan.

There always are a few "Party Animals" in each city who want to try their hand at play-by-play. Well, let me tell you, it doesn't take long before the rest of the party participants are screaming at these Tony Schiavone wanna-bes to sit down and shut up. More often than not, fans at our Nitro parties are amazed at the amount of information that flows, kind of like champagne, from "Iron" Mike Tenay. It's interesting to see that people at our Nitro Parties react so much like fans at the arena. Let's see, when the Party People see "Living Legend" Larry Zbyszko for the first time, they begin chanting "LARRY, LARRY, LARRY." In the same breath, when Bobby "The Brain" Heenan hits the screen, you can hear the all-too-familiar chants of "WEASEL, WEASEL, WEASEL."

I'm always asked how I can stand to interview some of the more egomaniacal and down right abusive wrestlers. Well, I just direct their attention back to the big screen TV and tell them I learned a lot about being a patient interviewer from wrestling's broadcasting dean, "Mean" Gene Okerlund.

At the end of the Nitro Party, our Nitro Party people are still at it. They're busy discussing the matches as well as the repercussions that may result. Right about now, I'm thinking about getting back to my hotel. I shake a lot of hands, sign some autographs and offer my goodbyes. Then, I'm always hit with one last question. As I'm heading for the door, I can always count on hearing someone yell, "Hey 'Stagger' Lee, aren't you gonna stay for the Nitro replay?"

Monday Nitro Parties are a wonderful part of my week. I look forward to each and every one. I've got one more major topic to discuss and it's a biggie: the World Heavyweight Champion, Hulk Hogan.

Every single athlete with the necessary skills, toughness and hormones to get into professional wrestling has thought about becoming the World Heavyweight Champion. After all, no right-thinking person ever started a venture with the intention of failing. Instead, people become involved in a project, a venture or even their professional careers with the hope and dream of being successful. For a professional wrestler, the pinnacle is the World Heavyweight Championship. It goes without saying that wanting to become champion, and actually becoming champion, are two COMPLETELY different things. It is, for this reason, that "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan always will have bad feelings toward Curt Hennig.

For the majority of his career, "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan has been the World Heavyweight Champion and, for most of those years, he has deserved the admiration and acclaim that goes with the title. However, he wasn't always a champion. In fact, Hogan will always resent Hennig because Hennig did something Hogan was not able to do. Follow me now as we go on a little Wrestling History lesson.

During the glory years of the now-defunct AWA, the organization's Heavyweight Championship belt was held by legendary mat stars such as Verne Gagne and Nick Bockwinkel. In the early 1980's, the title belonged to Bockwinkel and it was obvious that "Slick Nick" and his manager, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan, would do anything to make sure the belt stayed in their possession. It was also during this time that a young wrestler was winning match after match. The tougher the competition, the more determined this young wrestler got — until finally the Championship Committee had to give him a shot at the World Heavyweight Championship. Not only was the St. Paul (Minn.) Arena sold out that night, but, so too was an adjoining building which was showing the match on closed-circuit TV. Wrestling fans throughout the world were waiting to hear the outcome of this title match between The Champion Nick Bockwinkel and The Challenger, Hulk Hogan.

Without giving you a blow-by-blow account of the entire match, I'll simply say Nick Bockwinkel retained the belt — and "The Weasel" had a hand in it. I'll add one more note: It was a horrible decision; Hogan should have won the title that night. Hogan dreamed of becoming the World Heavyweight Champion that evening in Minnesota, but his dream didn't come to fruition.

To this day, I still think Hogan is haunted by the Bockwinkel match, as well as Curt Hennig.

By now you're probably wondering what Curt Hennig has to do with the Bockwinkel-Hogan fight. Well, in actuality, Hennig had nothing to do with the match. Truthfully, I don't even recall if Hennig was in St. Paul that evening. But I do know what he was thinking. Hennig, like all other young wrestlers, aspired to be the World Heavyweight Champion. It wasn't too much longer until Hennig got his shot at Bockwinkel, a match held in Las Vegas. The confident champion entered the ring, followed by the youthful challenger. Bockwinkel had been in this position dozens of times in the past. Hennig, meanwhile, was getting his first shot at the World Title. Bockwinkel's entourage stayed behind at the casino, while Hennig was joined by his tuxedo-clad advisor: Larry Zbyszko.

Almost an hour after the first bell, it was over: Hennig defeated Bockwinkel. Hennig then accomplished his dream. He had become the World Heavyweight Champion.

Word of Hennig's victory spread like wildfire within the wrestling world. Within hours everyone had heard the news. I have no idea where Hulk Hogan was that night; however, I have a sneaky suspicion that he remembers that night quite well. It's the night Hulk Hogan learned that Curt Hennig did something he never did: Hennig defeated Bockwinkel for the AWA World Heavyweight Championship.

Hogan today is sitting pretty, to a degree. He still has a few burrs in his saddle, and one certainly is Curt Hennig.

In closing, here are a few of my popular "Did You Know?" facts:

* Nick Bockwinkel is now a successful estate and financial planner.

* In high school, Nick Bockwinkel was an outstanding running back, but gives much of the credit to a tough, hard-blocking lineman named John Madden. (And John is NO relation to "Flounder" Mark Madden, no matter how much Mark wants to claim the relationship.)

* Nick Bockwinkel wears an intricately-carved gold ring that actually depicts a wrestling ring with two wrestlers.

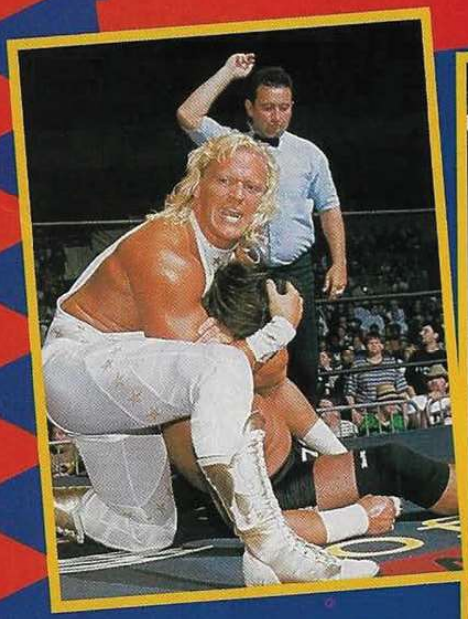
See you next month,
"Stagger" Lee Marshall.

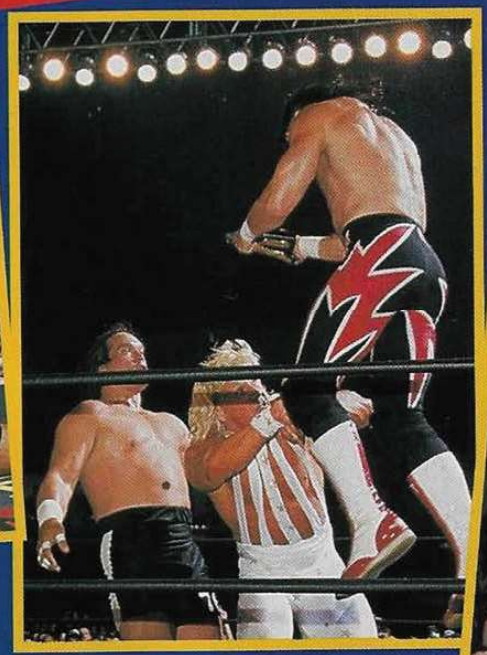
The fans want Sting vs. Hogan

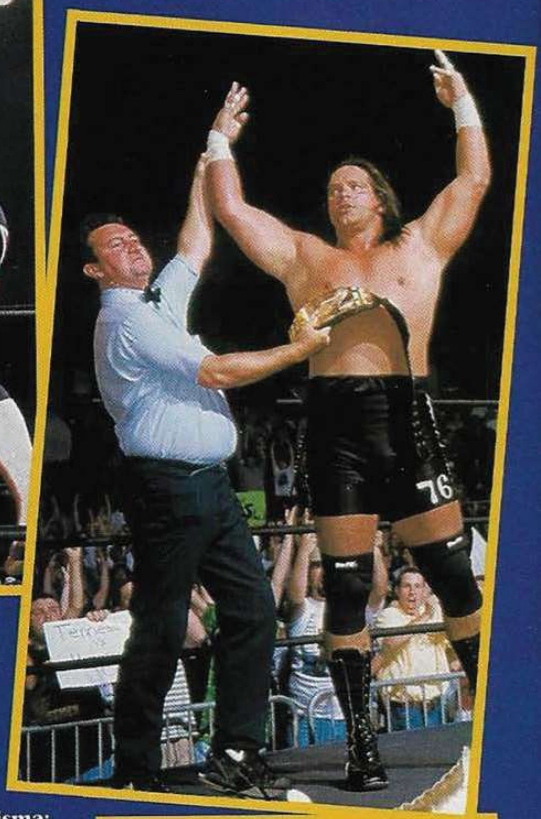
CLASH of the CHAMPIONS XXXI

By Ross Forman

A mystical, magical bird not only made its way to Nashville, Tennessee, for the August 21st Clash of the Champions, but, it had the best seat in the house: Right on the top ring rope, with the eyes of the wrestling world glued on its every move, during the major, show ending sequence. Animal activists would, and should, have been in heaven. Spuds MacKenzie, eat your heart out, your day has come and (long) gone.



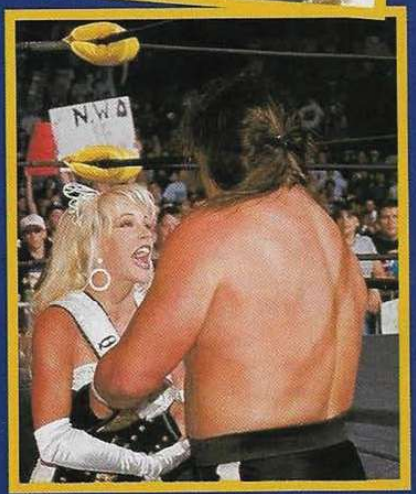


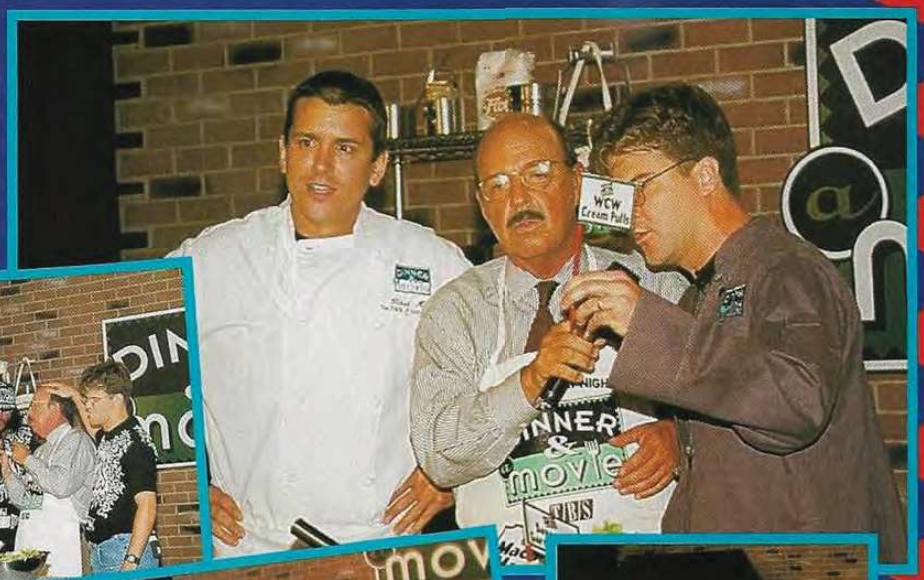


Too bad I wasn't there as well. Due to a host of travel woes, I never made it to Music City, USA, and, thus, had to settle for a twenty inch, color Sony television — and, naturally, a bag of chips and some French onion dip, and, uh, a glass of milk. I missed the amazing Pay-Per-View caliber megashow in person, but was able to catch it like the average wrestling fan, not the wrestling writer posed with the post-match press conference questions. Thank you very much, TBS Superstation.

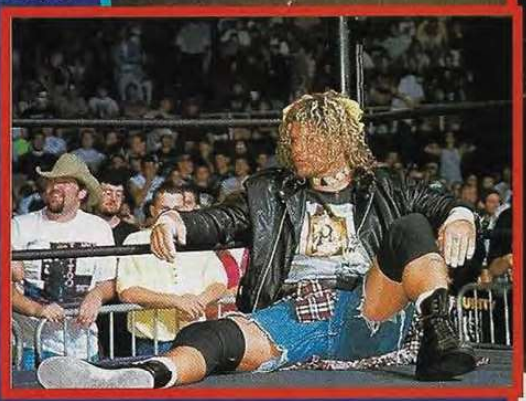
The show opened with, what turned out to be, the first of two title changes. Jeff Jarrett, the hometown hero (yeah, right), matched wits, and fists, with Steve "Mongo" McMichael. The former Bear vs. the man with the hair. The ex-footballer against the ex-Four Horseman. Add in Queen Debra McMichael and the equation was awesome. Mystery and mayhem, combined with a splash of pizzazz (that's you, Debra) Queen Debra, looking as radiant as ever, led her man (of the hour, not her husband) past the new-look Wild Cat Willie to the ring. "Mongo" wasn't worried, though, about her VISA bill as he walked to the ring. "That belt is like a Super Bowl ring to him," said broadcaster Dusty Rhodes, wearing his traditional all-black attire. Jarrett powerslammed McMichael, then later showed his rare charisma: Showboating to the world by laying on the ropes mid-match. (I can't tell you how frustrating commercials can be.) Debra even got her hands dirty in this battle, pulling Mongo's hair. Jarrett and Mongo later traded sleeper holds. McMichael ultimately scored the win after Eddy Guerrero's outside interference on Jarrett's behalf backfire, no doubt to the dismay of Jarrett's ringside grandmother, Christine, a former wrestling promoter.

Poor "Mean" Gene Okerlund. He first had to deal with a foreign-speaking interview subject, then an abusive trio. He even had his chrome dome repeatedly rubbed, although we all know that's good luck (for the



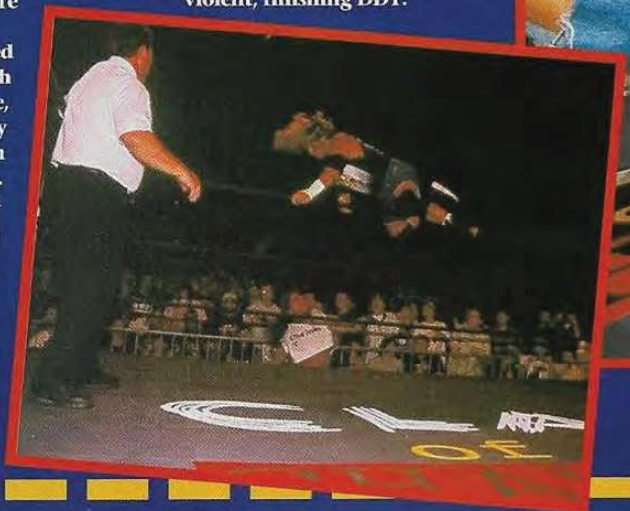


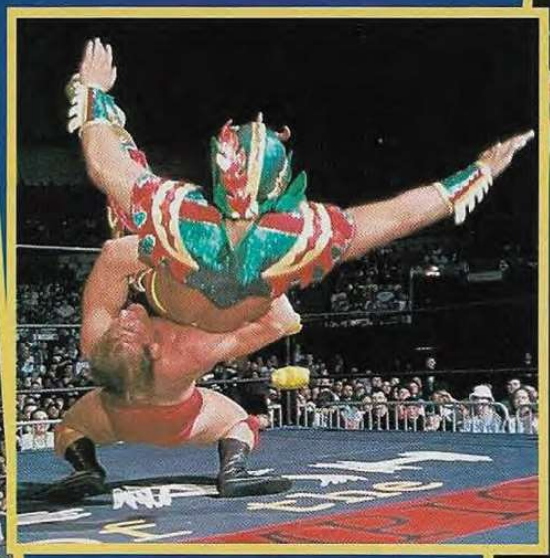
rubber).Okerlund first had to endure the errant ramblings, including lame jokes, from Germany's own Alex Wright. And Wright ain't got anything on Okerlund's favorite German, Mr. Heineken. Later in the evening, Okerlund was on hand when chef Claude Mann and his pal Paul Gilmartin of "TBS Dinner & A Movie" turned a makeshift kitchen into the "Cookery for The NWO." In a shocking move, Mann and Gilmartin aligned themselves with "Macho Man" Randy Savage and company, then displayed such culinary cuisines as Macho Nachos, Macho Mayo, NWO-kra, and of course everyone's favorite: WCW Cream Puffs (designed specifically for Diamond Dallas Page, they said). There was a Mann-made NWO chocolate cake and an irate Okerlund, livid that he had been abused both verbally and physically by Mann, Gilmartin and Savage. Luckily, Okerlund's revenge came in the form of Diamond Dallas Page who destroyed the kitchen and its food and even dumped the Diamond Cutter on Gilmartin.

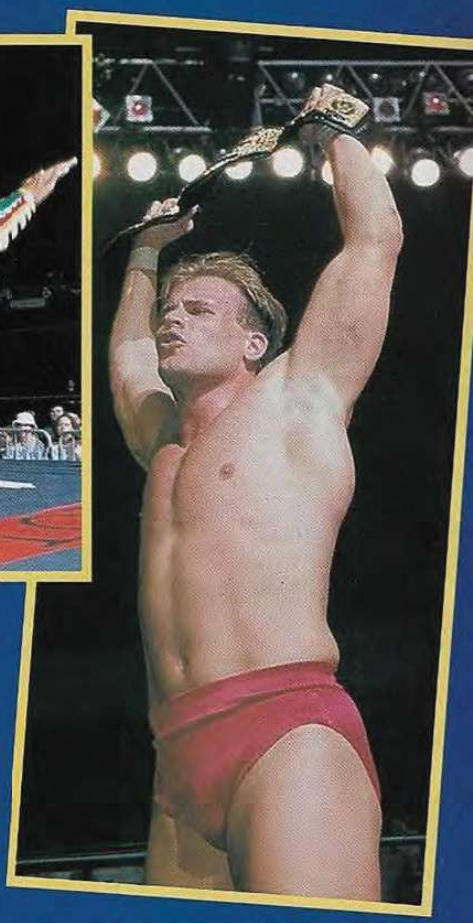


I'm sure Motel 6 is a fine motel and Valvoline is great for your car, but I couldn't wait for the action to resume.

Stevie Richards sprinted to the ring for his match like he knew, in advance, that night's lottery numbers. Too bad for him the numbers were 1-2-3 ... in Raven's favor. The former tag team champion partners, now rivals, battled for just over five minutes ... and Richards got about five years worth of pain. Raven, who insisted the match be deemed No Disqualification, dominated throughout, clearly showing who's a stud and who's a dud. Richards had limited positives at best, and he endured incredible punishments, like a bulldog into a chair and a violent, finishing DDT.







Wanna go to WCW's Power Plant Training Center? Here's how, call (404) 351 4959.

Mike Tenay offered a glimpse at his top notch journalistic credentials when he offered a clear, concise explanation on Ultimate, er, Ultimo Dragon's correct name. The near-three-minute segment featured a verbal explanation of the name from Dragon, set in front of students from Dragon's Mexico training facility. Plus, there was even video footage of the late Bruce Lee.

Maybe next time Tenay should profile the foreign phenom with a flair for the funky dancing, Alex Wright.

Wright defeated Dragon to capture the WCW Television Championship.

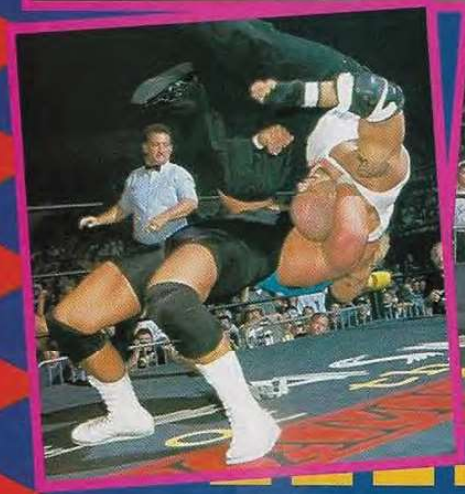
"What a great win for Alex Wright," broadcaster Bobby 'The Brain' Heenan said, seconds before the Big Boys Shopping Network aired the WCW backpack ($30.95 postage paid), available by calling 1-800-WCW-8661.

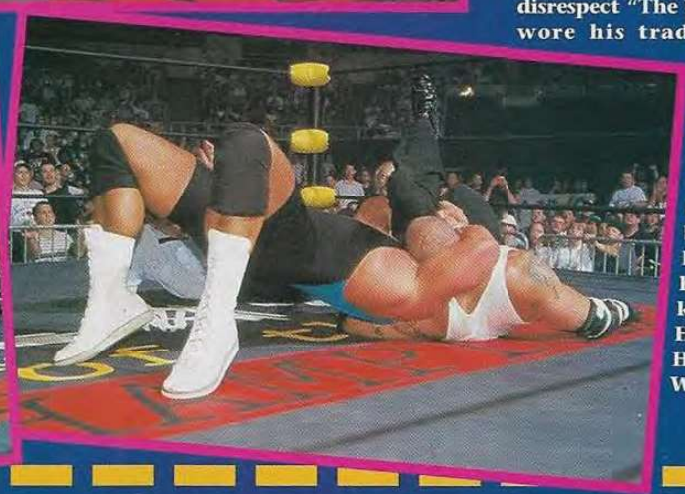
(Commercial for Syxx shirts, Wendy's, Head & Shoulders, and others. I'll pass on each, but will take the M&M's that are advertised later on.)

Ya better not blink during these amazing six and eight man Lucha Libre contests. And ya better have the VCR set so you can replay them. And, yes, each time the "WOW!" is as loud. For instance, a mighty lariat by Villano IV, Hector Garza's "whirly-whirly," as Rhodes calls it, and, finally, Psychosis' guillotine legdrop on Super Calo for the win. And lest we not forget, Air Juvey.

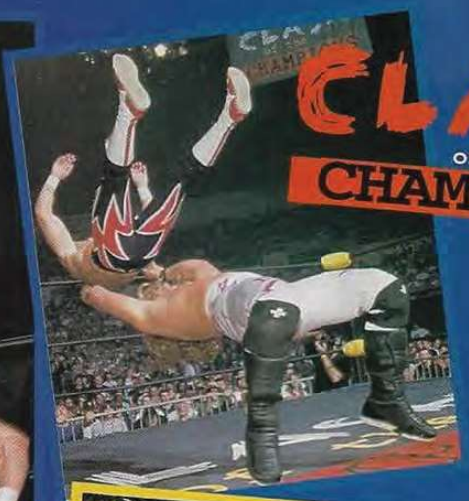
(Greetings from Columbia, South Carolina, home of the Gamecocks — and Lee Marshall this Thursday night. WCW's Party Animal, Marshall, offered his traditional ON THE ROAD 1-800-COLLECT report from the university city.)

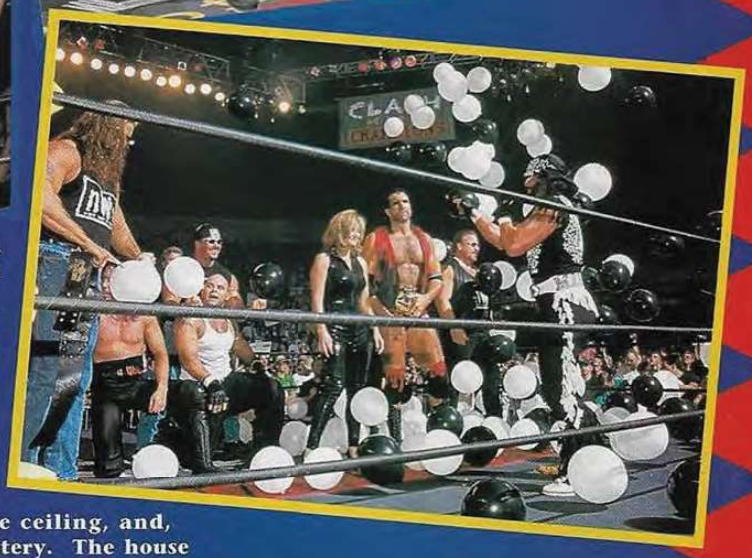
Konan and Syxx joined forces at the Clash to challenge the wrestling machines known as Ric Flair and Curt Hennig. Konan wanted Hennig early on and Syxx wanted to further disrespect "The Nature Boy." Hennig wore his traditional black and sky-blue singlet; Konan repeatedly barked "Arriba La Raza!" Flair's vicious right-handed chops to Syxx echoed throughout the building, I think. Hennig scored with his patented running kneelift on Syxx. Later, Hennig's flawless Hennig-plex led to the WCW victory.





CLASH of the CHAMPIONS





The NWO's one year birthday party featured main event introductions from Michael Buffer (Let's Get Ready To Rumble!) and every NWOer in attendance, except World Heavyweight Champion "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan who was in Montreal filming a movie. The NWO's enemies: Lex Luger and Diamond Dallas Page. And you can bet there was no love lost among this foursome. Hall immediately called for Luger. He obliged and the two went at it. Savage later went to work on Page's already injured ribs. In the end, Hall pinned Luger when a groggy DDP dropped Luger with Diamond Cutter, KOing The Total Package.

The two hour Clash extravaganza closed with an NWO in-ring fiesta as thousands of balloons (black and white, of course) and leaflets dropped from the ceiling, and, well, a lot of mystery. The house lights flickered and ominous organ music intoned throughout the arena. The next sight was clearly visible. Sting was standing high above the ring in the rafters, with a vulture on his shoulder. Emotionless and motionless (except to pat the bird), Sting stared down at the ring while a child's voice spoke:

"When a man's heart is full of deceit, it burns up, dies and a dark shadow falls over his soul.

"From the ashes of a once-great man has risen a curse. A wrong that must be righted.

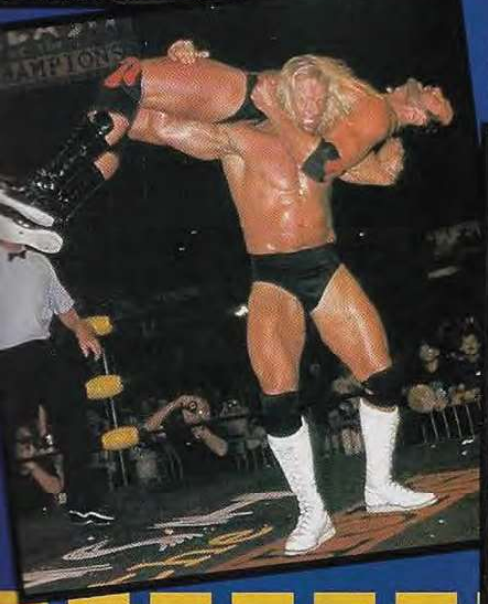
"We look to the skies for a vindicator. Someone to strike fear into the black hearts of the same men who created him.

"The battle between good and evil has begun.

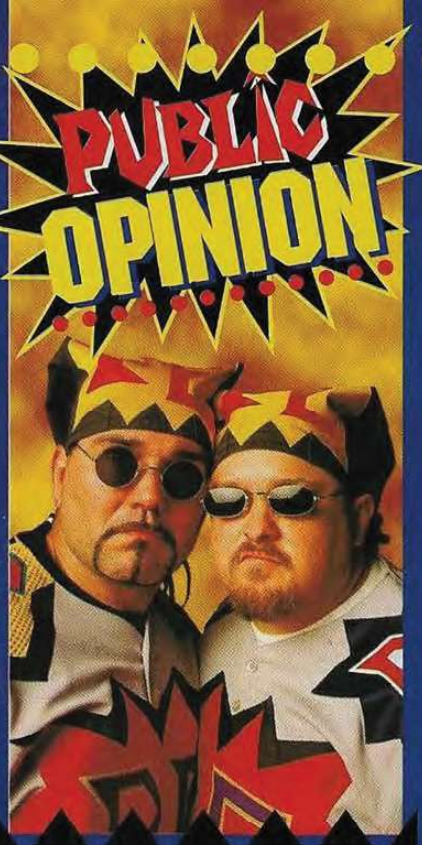
"Against an army of shadows comes a Dark Warrior. The purveyor of good with the voice of silence and a mission of justice.

THIS IS STING!"

The arena lights went off again and, when they were turned back on, the vulture was perched on the top rope of the ring. The NWO were mortified as the huge bird eyed each of them as if they were a tasty snack. The TV then faded before we learned if Eric Bischoff was about to lose his fingers or Kevin Nash was going to battle the bird with his tag team championship belt.



PUBLIC OPINION



By Rocco Rock and Johnny Grunge

Well, well, well ... Johnny B. Getting Married!

Stop the printing presses cos this is a shocker. Our man Johnny is tying the knot and lawdy-dawdy, there's gonna be one big party in Atlanta where he lives! It really is an amazing thing that Johnny Grunge is getting married. Who would have guessed that there would be a woman anywhere in the world crazy enough to marry Johnny, but there is such a woman.

Now on to other news in WCW, starting with Diamond Dallas Page, the man who is whooping everyone nowadays. He's a one-man army for WCW. It seems like the world is coming at him, but he keeps surviving. Holy cow, DDP! What's going on with you?! Where did this all come from? I mean, two years ago this man was just a middle of the card wrestler ... today he is a top-notch star in WCW. We wish you luck all the time. And the same luck goes out to his lovely wife, Kimberly.

Kimberly, as you all know, anchors that Nitro Girls unit and, well, to be honest with you, we continue to be super impressed with them. Their dancing is incredible. They are looking great! Keep up the good work ... we like this dance team.

Important news. Breaking news. And it centers around Mr. Steven Regal. We hate to talk about it because we love Steven Regal ... he is one of the last great technical wrestlers remaining in the country. He's got counters to counters to counters. If he was a professor, he'd be a Harvard genius. But, Steven Regal recently got into a little trouble after wrestling in Japan. Well, since, we haven't seen Steven Regal. We don't know what is in store for him, but, we — Johnny Grunge and Rocco Rock — have formally begun our own investigation. Exactly what happened involving Mr. Regal will be discussed next month. It was all probably just an NWO plot.

Another from the "I Can't Believe This Happened" file: Eddy Guerrero must be having problems with himself. He's turned on (family members) Chavo, Jr., and Hector ... and then there was the Monday when he was to be wrestling on Nitro, yet, before the matches started, left the building and got himself into a little trouble. What happened to Eddy? We don't really know, but it wasn't good. Will there be any disciplinary action against him? We don't know, but we will keep you posted on Eddy. In the ring, we must say that Eddy looks a lot like the Eddy we knew from Mexico, when he was one of the most vicious, underhanded wrestlers in the world. He's gone right back to his roots.

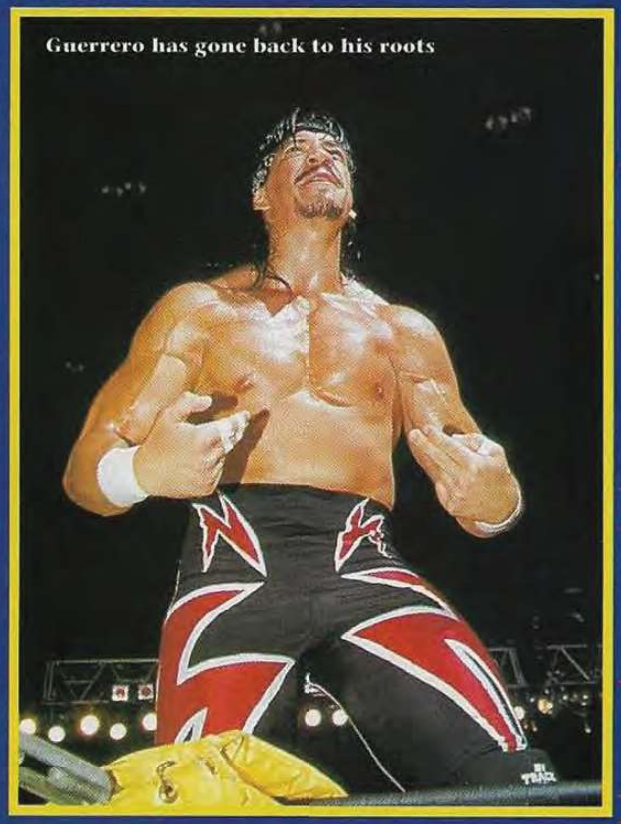
Let's talk about the Mexican lucha libre stars. They seem to be taking over the place. There are so many Mexicans — in the ring and out. These Mexicans do so many crazy, aerial moves, things that are nothing but crazy. Hey, men just do not do these moves. Men do not put their body in that kind of danger. These guys think they are the Rubberband Men. They dive off the top rope, what, 12, 14, 18 feet in the air, and land on their head. Then two minutes later they try to wrestle again. I guess they are all crazy. If us Americans do not start coming together and putting a stop to them, there's gonna be big trouble in WCW.

This next item comes directly from Rocco Rock, and if anyone has the answer, please write me at the WCW/CNN Center address listed in this magazine. The question: What's happening with Dennis Rodman? Ya know, I didn't think the guy did that bad of a job (at Bash at the Beach), especially for never before having been in the ring. Dennis Rodman proved himself to me. Rodman has super-athletic ability; he should be in that ring wrestling right now. What's happened to him? Where is he?

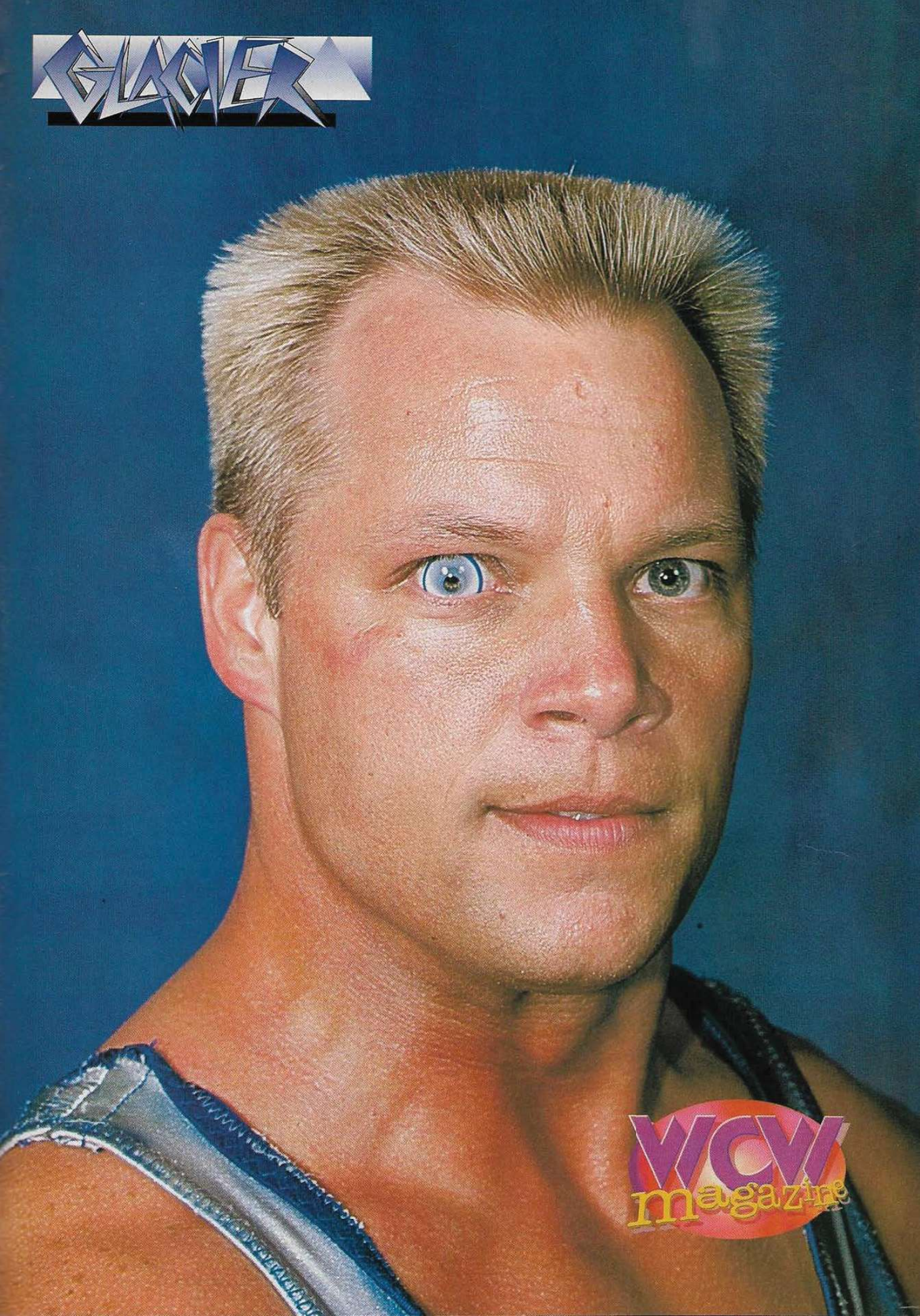
Let's talk about Syxx for a few seconds. This man does some form of chicken-wing dance in the middle of the ring on a regular basis. We see it and shake our heads every time he does it.

Johnny and Rocco will have our "spy-caps" on in full force over the next few weeks ... we're trying to find out what's REALLY going on and who's in charge, etc.

Be ready for more next month ...



Guerrero has gone back to his roots


GLACIER
WCW
magazine

WCWwrestling.com

SURF AND DESTROY

WCWwrestling.com

GET WIRED ON THE OFFICIAL WCW HOMEPAGE!

COMPLETE WCW COVERAGE INCLUDING:

- WCW EVENTS
- LIVE EVENTS CALENDAR
- PAY-PER-VIEW INFO
- MERCHANDISE
- DOWNLOADABLE INTERVIEWS, PHOTOS, SOUNDS AND MORE!

WCWwrestling.com Presents

- October 13 - INTERNET INSIDERS - Mean Gene Okerlund and Lee Marshall broadcast uncensored interviews with wrestling superstars from TNT Monday Nitro LIVE from Tampa.
- October 26 - WCW HALLOWEEN HAVOC REAL AUDIO SIMULCAST - Mark Madden, Jeff Katz and Lee Marshall announcing.
- October 27 - INTERNET INSIDERS - Mean Gene Okerlund joins Mark Madden to broadcast uncensored interviews with wrestling superstars from TNT Monday Nitro Live from San Diego.
- October 27 - THE INTERNATIONAL NITRO SIMULCAST - English, Spanish and Japanese - Mark Madden and Lee Marshall announcing in English. Pedro Morales and Miguel Alonzo announcing in Spanish and Sonny Onoo and Ultimate Dragon announcing in Japanese.

Streaming provided by AudioNet. The broadcast network on the Internet

YOU'RE GONNA LOOK SWEEET!

"Hollywood" Hogan Bandana.
He's the star of stage and screen, and you can get his bandana for a measly 7 bucks!.
Item # HHG N 200 BAN
100% cotton black bandana with screen printed logo. **$7.00**

"Hollywood" Hogan Pennant.
Show your support for the World's greatest wrestler with this full color screen printed collector's pennant.
Item # HHG N 200 PNT
Approximately 30" in length. **$7.00**

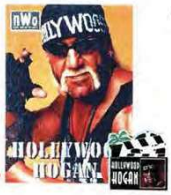
nWo For Life Mug.
Start your mornings in style! NWO 4 Life and our mug is 4 coffee, tea or whatever. Thermo mug measures 6 1/2" tall, comes with lid and holds 20 ounces. Microwave and dishwasher safe.
Item # NWO N 200 MUG $5.00

nWo Mug.
"Bad just arrived & We're here to stay." This killer mug holds 20 ounces of your favorite beverage, measures 6 1/2" tall, comes with lid and is microwave and dishwasher safe. **Item # NWO N 201 MUG $10.00**

nWo Denim Jacket.
You'll look buff in this NWO stone-washed denim jacket! Embroidered NWO logo on back. 100% black cotton denim. **Item # NWO N 200 J**
M,L,XL-**$80.00** XXL-**$85.00**

nWo Hat.
It's what we wear when we're bustin' heads. Embroidered NWO logo on cotton twill hat with adjustable snap back.
Item # NWO N 200 HAT
$15.00

"Hollywood" Hogan Lapel Pin Card.
This is the only way you're ever gonna see "Hollywood" Hogan get "pinned!" Limited edition collectible pin and trading card features "Hollywood" in full color.
Item # HHG N 200 PIN
$10.00



nWo T-Shirt.
This is the rag that started it all! Tell the world that you know who the real big boys are!
100% pre-shrunk black cotton tee.
Item # NWO N 200T
Adult sizes M,L,XL,XXL **$20.00**
Youth sizes YM,YL **$15.00**
(Adult sizes also available in white. Please specify **Item # NWO N 202T**)

nWo Gymbag.
It's the big, bad NWO Gymbag! NWO logo is screen printed on both sides, has 2 side zip pockets and shoulder strap. Made from tough Denier nylon and measures 24" x 12" x 12".
Item #NWO N 200 GYM $30.00

Macho Man Lapel Pin Card.
Snap into action with this ring-rockin' limited edition Macho Man pin and trading card! The Madness is back, Baby!!!
Item # MMN N 200 PIN $10.00

Outsiders T-Shirt.
The Outsiders have turned the WCW inside out! Scott Hall and Kevin Nash screen-printed in full color! 100% cotton pre-shrunk black tee.
Item # OUT N 200 T Sizes M,L,XL,XXL **$20.00**

Macho Man Pennant.
Oh Yeeeeaaaahhhh! It's the Macho Man Randy Savage screen printed in full color on this slammin' collector's pennant. Pin it!
Item # MMN N 200 PNT
Approximately 30" in length.
$7.00

nWo Championship Belt.
Looks just like WCW's Heavyweight belt, with one noticable improvement! Attaches around the waist with velcro.
Item # NWO N 200 BLT One size fits most. **$15.00**

nWo Baby Bib.
You're never to young to go NWO! 100% cotton terry, vinyl backed with double snapped neck.
Item # NWO N 200 BIB One size fits all. **$7.00**

nWo Teddy Bear.
Don't let the cute looks fool you, this Killer Kodiak is bad to the bone!
Plush bear measures 10" tall and wears screen printed t-shirt and hat.
Item # NWO N 200 TDY $12.00

nWo Toddler Short Set.
Get this black crew neck tee with contrasting ash shorts. Both are 100% cotton with screen printed NWO logos.
Item # NWO N 200 C You gotta specify 2T, 3T or 4T. **$22.00**

nWo Infant Set.
Just the thing for your little NWO fanatic. 3-piece set includes T-shirt, pant and socks made out of 100% cotton with screen printed NWO logos.
Item # NWO N 200 1
Specify 12 months, 18 months or 24 months.
$20.00

nWo Baby Sneakers.
Just the thing for your little carpet creeper! All over print design made from 100% cotton duck canvas with thermoplastic sole. Machine washable.
Item # NWO N 201 1
Specify sizes 0-3 mths, 3-6 mths, 6-9 mths or 9-12 mths. **$18.00**

We've come for your cash!

GeT OFFICIAL NWO™ MERCHANDISe.

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	SIZE	QUANTITY	ITEM PRICE	TOTAL

RINGTHEBELL on Archive.org

Merchandise Total
Sh[illegible]x (FL, GA only)
Subtotal
Shipping & Handling (See chart below)
Total

SHIP TO
Name
Address
City State
Zip Code Country

Payment Method Payment must accompany all orders. Sorry, no C.O.D.'s.
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express
Credit Card Number Expiration Date
Signature as it appears on card (Required)

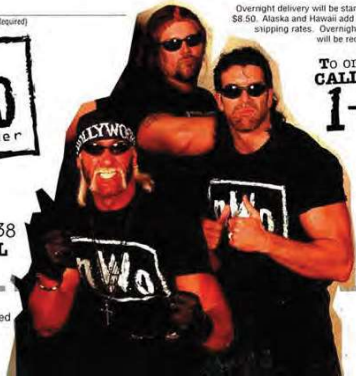
Shipping & Handling: Add the appropriate amount for each. Ship To Address.
Under $25.00..... add $5.95
$25.00 to $50.00..... add $7.95
$50.01 to $75.00..... add $8.95
$75.01 to $100.00..... add $9.95
Over $100.00..... add $11.95
It ain't gonna get there for 2 to 3 weeks.

CHRISTMAS DELIVERY DEADLINE - Orders must be placed by 12/16/96 for standard delivery by Christmas.

Overnight delivery will be standard shipping plus $8.50. Alaska and Hawaii add $16.00 to standard shipping rates. Overnight orders in by noon will be received the next day.

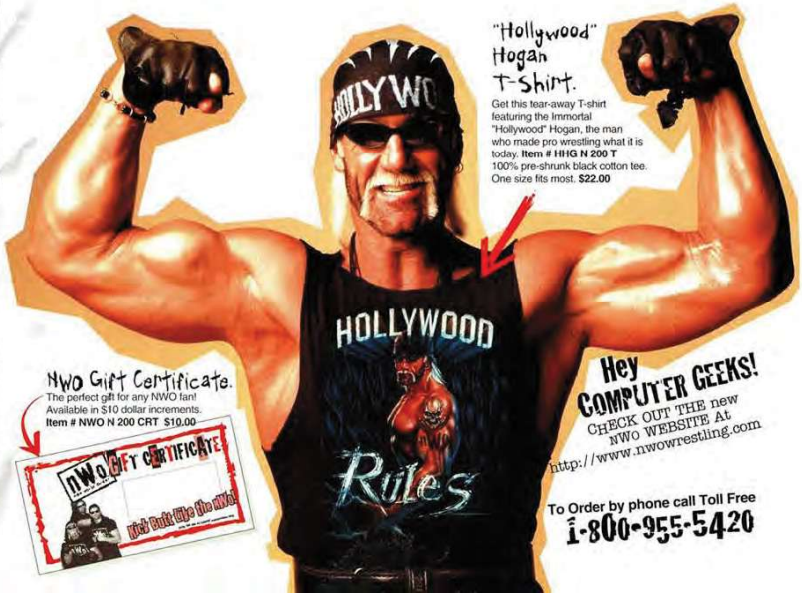
nWo new world Order

Send order form to:
NWO
P.O. Box 830838
Birmingham, AL
35283-0838



To order by phone
CALL TOLL FREE
1-800-955-5420
Source Code NMAG087

© 1997 NWO All Rights Reserved



"Hollywood" Hogan T-Shirt.
Get this tear-away T-shirt featuring the Immortal "Hollywood" Hogan, the man who made pro wrestling what it is today. **Item # HHG N 200 T**
100% pre-shrunk black cotton tee.
One size fits most. **$22.00**

nWo Gift Certificate.
The perfect gift for any NWO fan!
Available in $10 dollar increments.
Item # NWO N 200 CRT $10.00

Hey COMPUTER GEEKS!
CHECK OUT THE new NWO WEBSITE At
http://www.nwowrestling.com

To Order by phone call Toll Free
1-800-955-5420

BY "THE NOMAD"

Some say it didn't officially come to pass until July 7, 1996, the day of the "Bash At The Beach" pay-per-view, when "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan publicly aligned himself with Scott Hall and Kevin Nash, a pair of renegade civilians bent on destroying World Championship Wrestling (WCW). Some say it actually kicked off weeks earlier, when Hall walked through the Monday Nitro crowd in Macon, Ga., interrupting an in-progress match.

What is your official birthday for The New World Order? Then again, does it really matter? The NWO is here, established, stronger than ever. Think the folks at the USA Network don't know full well about The NWO? Think again!

WE'RE STILL TOOOO SWEEET!

The NWO is the stuff that makes people speak. If it's wrestling in 1997, it's gotta be NWO-related — or it ain't important. Mainstream newspapers write about The NWO on a regular basis, like The Chicago Tribune, which ran a major feature story on Hogan in mid-August. TV stations air clips of NWO'ers all the time; The Outsiders are regulars on nationally-syndicated shows like The George Michael's Sports Machine (NBC-TV). Radio personalities, like Mike North of The Score (SportsRadio 1160) in Chicago, often chit-chat with — and about — NWO members. When tickets go on sale for Monday Nitro, they sell like hotcakes if WCW stars attend the official "First Day of Ticket Sales Sale," whereas tickets REALLY sell — more like hotcakes, accompanied by warm, freshly tapped maple syrup — when NWO members are present.

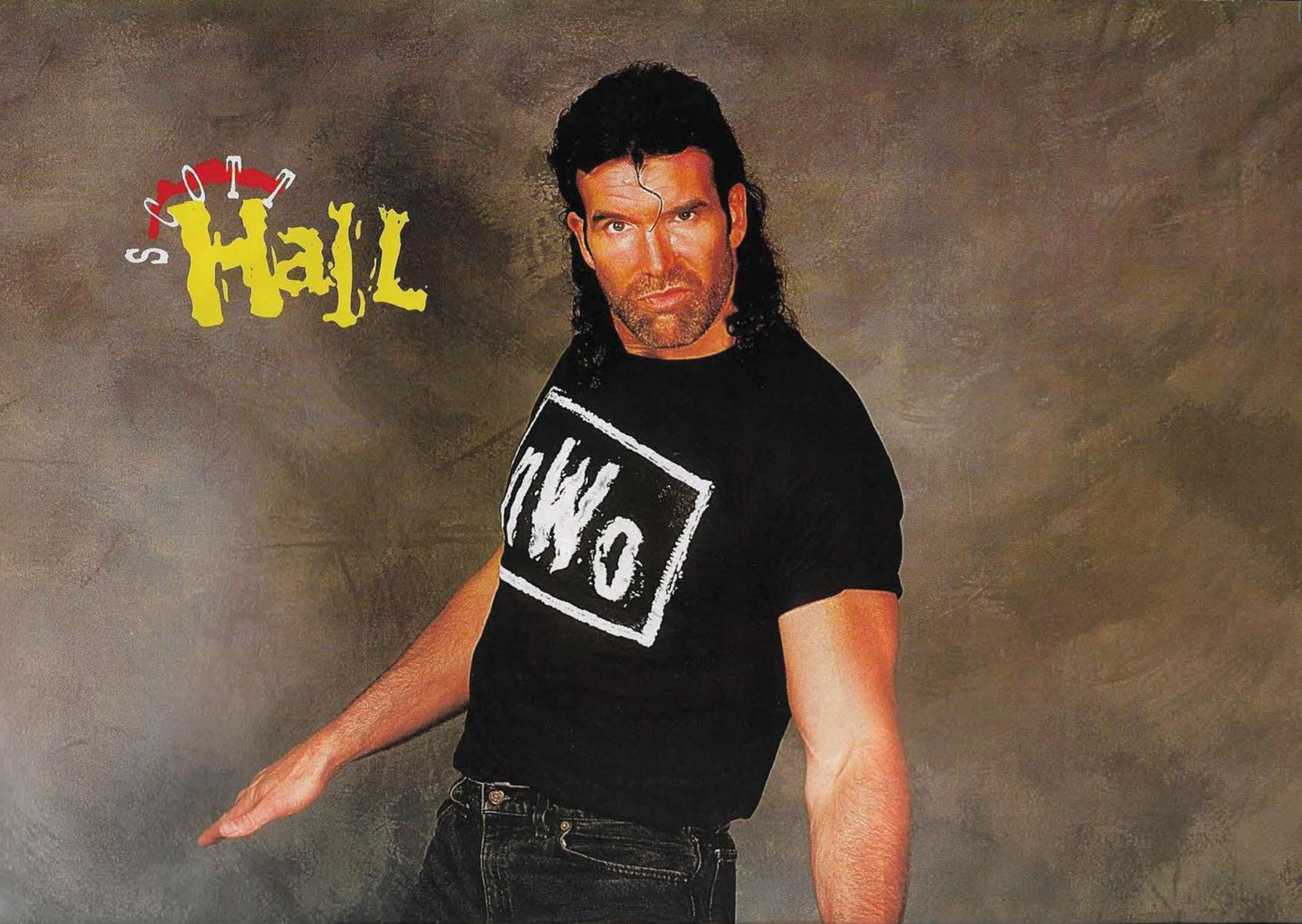
The NWO has done more for, and to, the sport of pro wrestling than imaginable, especially in such a short period of time. A year has passed, who would have thought?! An NWO pay-per-view was held, who would have thought?! The NWO took over the cover of WCW Magazine, who would have thought?! The NWO pushed the cord on WCW Magazine Editor/Publisher Colin Bowman — and he subsequently was suspended by his own bosses; who would have thought?!

So many accomplishments, so little time ... what a year-plus it has been!

"It's been exciting to be involved with something new, something so cutting-edge," Hall said. "As The NWO has developed, we seem to get stronger and that's encouraging.

"When we first started we all just hoped (The NWO) would work and each of us had our own ideas to make it work. Slowly it's all come together, almost just how I hoped it would work. That's why I'm satisfied. I can't really say I'm surprised. This is what we had in mind. We didn't start out hoping it would be a lukewarm success; we wanted it to be a huge success, and it has been just that."

The NWO has created its own Sting, a superstar wildly popular in Japan. In return, so to speak, that country has helped create some of The NWO greats: Masahiro Chono and The Great Muta, Marcus "Buff" Bagwell and Scott "Flash" Norton, aka, Vicious and Delicious. Fair exchange, one has to say. The NWO has rewritten the rules of wrestling over the past year plus. The NWO has created excitement way beyond the Hulkamania craze of the mid to late 1980's. The NWO has put fans in the stands, pushed up Pay-Per-View buy rates and


SCOTT
HALL
nWo

nWo
new world Order

even created its own incredibly successful 900 Hotline (1-900-454-4004).

The NWO is the buzz of pro wrestling, yet its members are — believe it or not — humble.

"We know we made mistakes over the past year, but we've learned from our mistakes ... and we're now at a turning point of sorts, a time when we can really make some progress," Hall said. "There weren't any glaring mistakes in our first year. There were just some mistakes that we need to correct, and we will correct."

Starting with the Souled Out Pay-Per-View, which was held in Iowa in January. Wrestling critics ripped The NWO's Pay-Per-View, calling it the worst PPV — from any promotion — in years.

Souled Out will be way different in '98. Souled Out '97 will be a distant memory by the time SO '98 closes.

"I think the biggest mistake we made over the past year was trying to present a Pay-Per-View way before we were ready to do so," Hall said. "We should have stayed with those (paid for) video packages, then expanded our portion of the WCW Saturday Night show.

"I don't think we were ready to have Souled Out when we had it. I think we should have started slower, but I guess there was pressure to produce quickly."

NWO fever spread around the sporting world. You had WCW'ers wanting out — and wanting in to The NWO. You had wrestlers based in the NorthEast flashing The NWO handsign on their TV programs despite their bosses' directive against it. You had the Pittsburgh Steelers' defense. You had NBA All-Star Vin Baker of the Milwaukee Bucks. You had American League umpire Larry Young wearing an NWO T-shirt under his uniform. You even had Dennis Rodman, the most controversial player in all sports. And Rodman was even there that Monday Nitro at the United Center in Chicago hours after the Chicago Bulls' NBA Championship Victory Party. And lest we forget, Rod The Bod the wrestling sensation.

Black and white ... so simple, yet oh so cool.

"We're the reason for all the rating's success, attendance boast; we know that," Hall said. "Monday Nitro might soon become a three-hour show soon for good. Why? Because of The NWO. We're good; we know it ... and we're only getting better.

"Personally, I think it's good to see a lot of people are watching wrestling in general. The NWO certainly has benefited from that, as has WCW.

The NWO ... we don't care if you cheer or boo us, just as long as you watch us."

And as long as you buy our T-shirts, our hats, our denim jackets, our dolls, our pin sets, our ... well buy everything. Or Kevin Nash will come after you!!

"We need to get refocused on what our mission statement was all when we started: to present a wrestling product that was better than anything offered by our competition," Hall said. "It isn't just going to be NWO vs. WCW wrestlers in the future. It's now going to be our commercials vs. theirs, our T-shirts vs. theirs, etc.

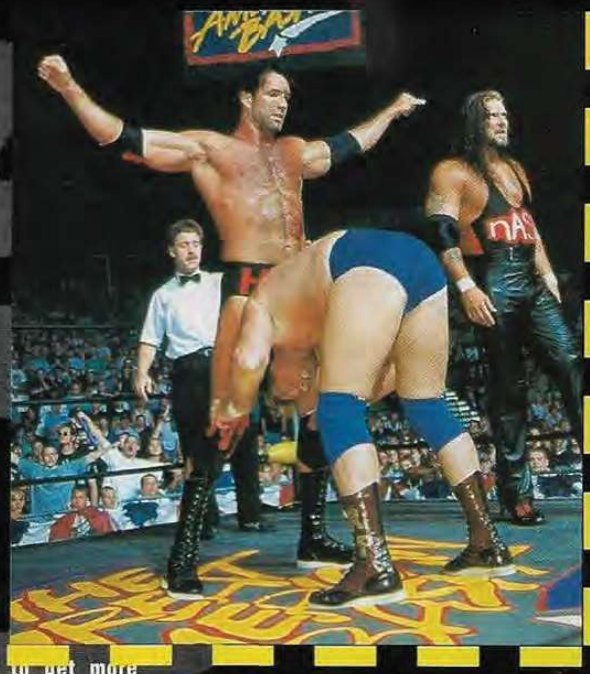
"That's why we need to get more mature, slicker and more polished ... and it will happen."

Hall and Nash have turned the tag team ranks into a battle for second place. WCW has sent team after team after team against The Outsiders. And everyone, like The Steiner Brothers, has been driven out of the picture. Ooops, no pun intended. Who's left to challenge The Outsiders? Maybe Billy Kidman and Prince Iaukea. Or is it, "Hec-Too Old To Be In This Sport" Guerrero and Sonny Onoo? Or, maybe if WCW tossed all of its lucha libre stars into the ring at once, all 15 of them, they might — and that's only might — be able to give The Outsiders a good challenge.

"I enjoy being in a tag team," Hall said. "The advantage to tag teaming is, I always have a friend out there with me, someone to share the experiences with. Whether it's Syxx or Kevin. Tag teaming is a different challenge than what I'm accustomed to. It's a lot different from singles wrestling.

"I think Kevin and I are still growing, still improving as a tag team, and we're already the champions. Where do we go from here?"

Hall added: "It's fun doing business with people you like. That way, it's not really like work. Plus, it's more rewarding. Especially when they are people who knew you before and can see — and appreciate — the changes in your life, career. What was happening in my wrestling career two years ago versus today ... it's incredible. When I came out on May 27, 1996, it was a big night for me. I left a comfortable situation where I was and took a gamble to try and launch something new. I feel real lucky, blessed that it's worked out so well. A lot of hard work went in to it, and it's now paying off; that's very satisfying. I feel great."



Ya gotta check out what Scott Hall said about two of the WCW's biggest loud-mouths:

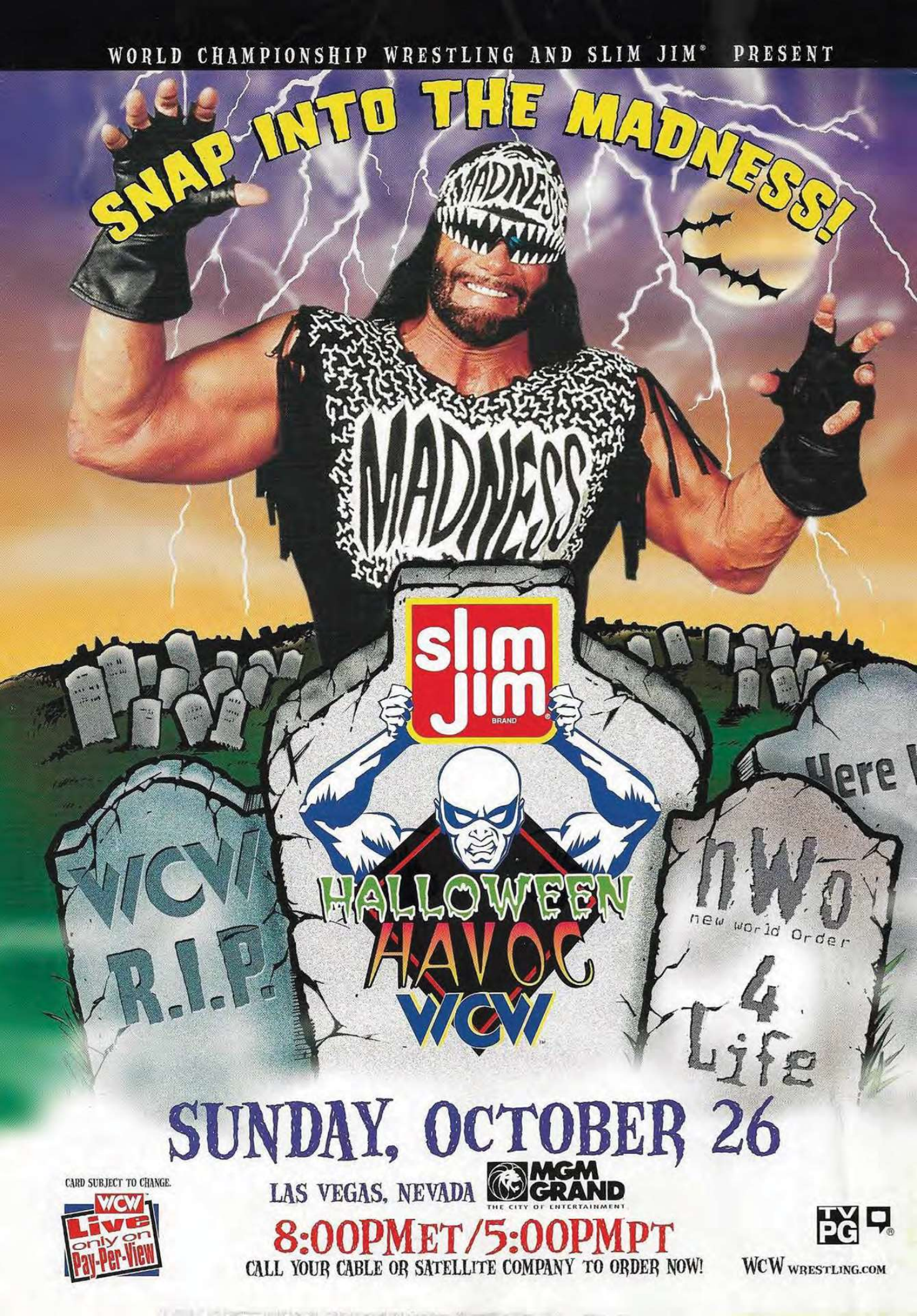
LARRY ZBYSZKO

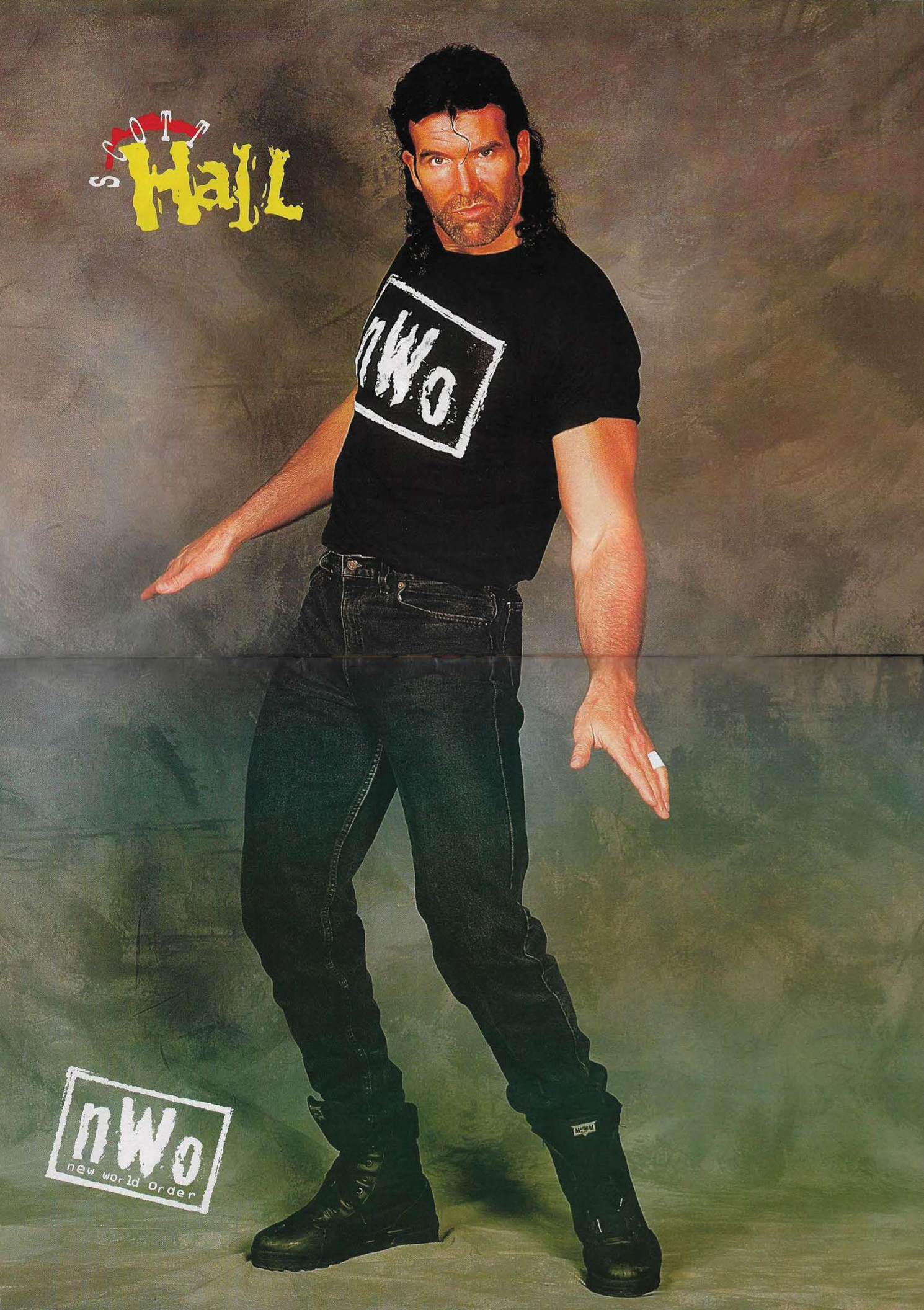
"He calls himself 'The Living Legend' and he was a decent wrestler a long time ago. But times have changed. Wrestling certainly has changed. And no one is as good as Zbyszko says he was; no one is that good."

DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE

"No one is as good as Page thinks he is. He is a little better than average on his best day. He's so one dimensional. He's got one move, The Diamond Cutter, which is a decent finishing move, nothing great. He's having a little bit of a lucky streak, but I look for it to end very, very soon. I think his best days are behind him.

He was a hard guy to do business with, and he's gotten worse. He was just a prop that I used. I have had my best success since I left him."


WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING AND SLIM JIM® PRESENT
SNAP INTO THE MADNESS!
MADNESS
slim jim BRAND
HALLOWEEN HAVOC
WCW
WCW R.I.P.
nWo new world order 4 Life
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26
CARD SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
WCW Live only on Pay-Per-View
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA MGM GRAND THE CITY OF ENTERTAINMENT
8:00PM ET/5:00PM PT
CALL YOUR CABLE OR SATELLITE COMPANY TO ORDER NOW!
TV PG
WCW WRESTLING.COM


SCOTT
Hall
nWo
nWo
new world order

FIRE
CHAE
SPICE
A.C. JAZZ
KIMBERLY
TAYO
NITRO Girls
VCV magazine